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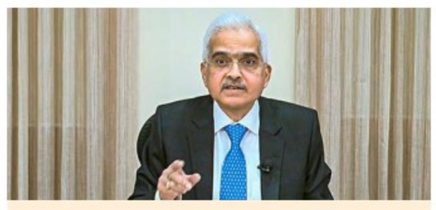

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NEARBY

Bangalore Turf Club licence renewed

BENGALURU
The State government has renewed the licence for betting at Bangalore Turf Club for August, and races will be held on Friday and Saturday.
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HC refuses to interfere with age norm for Class I

BENGALURU
Refusing to interfere with the age criterion of six years fixed for admission to Class I, the High Court of Karnataka has said that the courts cannot alter educational guidelines evolved by experts. » Page 4

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Peace will be restored in Manipur, PM assures LS

Govt. wins the no-confidence motion; Modi asks the Opposition to try again in 2028; many of the problems that had flared up in Manipur had their origin during Congress regimes, he says

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured the people of Manipur that India and Parliament were with them and the State and Central governments were putting all efforts to bring peace and development back to the State, as his government won the motion of no confidence amid a walkout by the Opposition.

The Opposition said it staged a walkout due to the fact that despite 90 minutes into his two-hour speech, Mr. Modi had not addressed the issue of Manipur.

Speaking about the State, after the Opposition walkout, the Prime Minister said: "The violence in Manipur is saddening. Crimes against women are unacceptable and the Central and State governments are working together to ensure the guilty are punished. We want to assure our mothers and daughters in Manipur that this country is with you, this House is with you." He assured the people of India that peace and development would soon be restored in the State. "*Dard ko samajh kar, dard ki dawaa ban kar saath chalein*, [let us understand the pain and become the medicine to heal together]," he said.

Attack mode: Many problems of Manipur are results of bad governance by the previous Congress governments, says Modi. PTI

While speaking of providing a healing touch to the people of Manipur, however, Mr. Modi said many of the problems that had flared up in the State were not of recent origin but were a hangover from the previous Congress governments that had administered the State.

He spoke of the record of previous Congress governments in Manipur, a time when Manipur was "consumed in the conflagration of insurgency, when the administration was under the sway of insurgents and the national anthem was banned from being sung in schools, when insurgents bombed the ISKCON temple, when the bells of temples stopped ringing by 4 p.m. and security forces had to guard these locked temples".

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Bill seeks to remove CJI from panel that picks CEC and ECs

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

In a controversial move, the Union government on Thursday introduced a Bill to remove the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from a panel to select the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. Instead of the CJI, the three-member panel would now have a Union Cabinet Minister, besides the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Prime Minister, who would head it.

The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was introduced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha amid din over Manipur.

The Opposition was quick to point out that this will put a question mark on the neutrality of the Election Commission (EC) as the selection panel would effectively have two members of the BJP – the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Minister.

Arjun Ram Meghwal

The EC would see a vacancy in February next year when Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey demits office, possibly days before the announcement of dates for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

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Cyber security policy gets Cabinet nod

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the increase in cybercrimes in Karnataka, the Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Cyber Security Policy, 2023. It aims at strengthening capabilities of the State government and the IT industry in checking rising cases of cybercrime.

The policy envisages participation of local bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and activists, and the government in creating awareness about online banking fraud and online education, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil told reporters here.

The Karnataka Cyber Policy focuses on strengthening the cyber security eco-system and technology leadership through policy intervention, he added.

CONTINUED ON
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Education Department orders closure of 63 unauthorised schools by August 14

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has ordered the closure of unauthorised private unaided schools which are running without affiliation of either State or central boards, by August 14.

There are 63 unauthorised schools running without any affiliation. According to the order issued by B.B. Cauvery, Commissioner for Public Instruction, these unauthorised schools should be closed by Monday.

Unauthorised schools

Schools running illegally without any affiliation: 63	Schools that have upgraded classes without affiliation: 74	
Schools having additional sections without permission: 620	Schools offering other board education, though they have the permission of the State board: 95	
Schools illegally offering English medium, despite being permitted to have Kannada medium: 294	Schools that have shifted without permission of the concerned department: 141	Schools violating other rules: 29
		Total 1,316

1,316 illegal schools
Earlier, the department had identified 1,316 unauthorised schools in the State. Among these, the department listed 63 as running without State or central board affiliation and around 620 schools as having additional sections without permission.

As many as 74 schools have upgraded the classes without affiliation. A total of 95 schools were also found cheating parents and children by offering other board education though they have permission to offer only State board. Around 294 schools were illegally offering English medium despite permission to teach in Kannada medium, and 141 schools were identified for shifting the schools without getting permission from the department concerned.

The department granted 45 days grace period for these schools to follow the rules and rectify their mistake in April 2023, but these schools failed to do so. The department had also ordered all the Deputy Directors of Public Instructions to issue public notices about the illegal schools to inform parents not to admit their children and restrict the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS) registration. However, the DDPIs failed to take necessary action.

"According to the Karnataka Education Act-1983, sections 30 and 31, running educational institutions without any affiliation is illegal. Therefore, the DDPIs concerned should immediately close those schools by August 14 and publish the details of those schools in a media release and on the notice board of the department to create awareness among parents and the public," said the Commissioner's order.

In addition, 74 schools that have upgraded the classes without affiliation will have to shut down the additional classes by August 14.

Notices to be issued
The DDPIs will start issuing notices to the schools offering other board education, those illegally offering English medium, and to schools that have shifted without getting permission. The department will put out a separate order with measures to be taken for the 620 schools which have additional sections without permission.

The Commissioner has also expressed her displeasure as only DDPIs in 16 of 35 educational districts have submitted the report regarding unauthorised schools. "The DDPIs should take necessary action about unauthorised schools and submit the report before August 16. Otherwise, disciplinary action will be taken," she warned in the order.

Shakti scheme: No smart cards, Karnataka RTCs to opt for passes

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Two months after its launch, the Shakti scheme, which has successfully bolstered revenue and ridership across all four road transport corporations (RTCs), has hit a roadblock; instead of the smart cards promised during the launch of the scheme, women passengers will be given regular passes.

A senior RTC official told *The Hindu* that the Center for e-Governance (CeG), which was initially approached for the development of smart cards for RTCs, declined the proposal. As a result, the RTC has opted to introduce passes for the Shakti scheme similar to regular bus passes.

On June 11, the newly-elected Congress government in Karnataka launched the first among five poll guarantees – the Shakti scheme, under which women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses across the state.

From the day of its launch until August 9, as many as 36.14 crore women passengers have utilised the initiative to travel across the State. FILE PHOTO

Since its launch, the scheme has garnered positive reception from female passengers. From the day of its launch until August 9 (Wednesday), 36.14 crore women passengers have utilised the initiative to travel across the State.

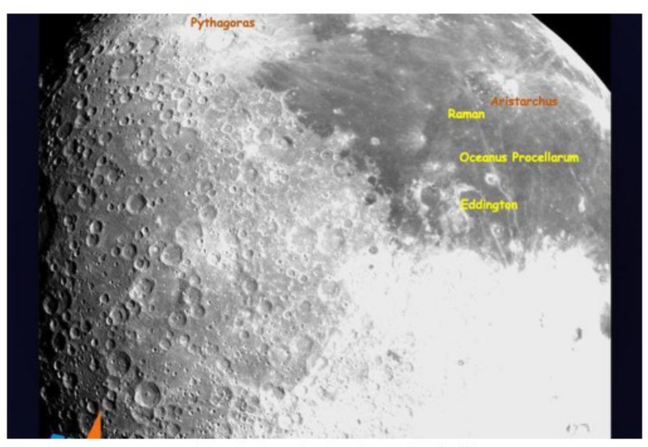
The cumulative value of tickets purchased by these women passengers amounts to ₹ 839,81,98,874.

Proposal declined
Transport Minister, Ramalinga Reddy confirmed to *The Hindu* that the proposal for smart card development had been declined by the CeG.

"We held a meeting recently with CeG officials to discuss the manufacturer of around three crore smart cards. Due to the substantial volume and the challenges associated with manufacturing such a large quantity of smart cards, CeG expressed its inability to undertake the task. Hence, we have now decided to introduce Shakti passes resembling traditional bus passes," Mr. Reddy added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

ISRO releases two images of earth and moon taken by cameras on board Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft



The moon as captured by the Lander Horizontal Velocity camera on August 6, 2023. ISRO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released two images taken by the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft. The first image is of the earth as viewed by the Lander Imager (LI) Camera.

The photo was taken on July 14, when the Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The second image is of the moon captured by the Lander Horizontal Velocity Camera (LHVC) on board the spacecraft on August 6.

ISRO posted on its X social media platform: "Chandrayaan-3 Mission: Earth viewed by Lander Imager (LI) Camera on the day of the launch, Moon imaged by Lander Horizontal Velocity Camera (LHVC) a day after the Lunar Orbit Insertion."

LI camera was developed by Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and LHV camera by the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS), which is based in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Video of moon
ISRO had earlier released a video of the moon, as viewed by Chandrayaan-3 during Lunar Orbit Insertion, which took place on August 1.

On August 9, ISRO carried out the third orbit reduction manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-3 and the Chandrayaan-3 is just 1,437 km away from the moon.

RELATED REPORT ON
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Ojas, Aditi's next target: Hangzhou gold

The young duo, not inclined to sit on its World Championships laurels, is determined to keep all the post-World championships distractions at bay and re-focus on their game to make India proud again at the Asian Games

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi

Seventeen-year-old Aditi Swami and 21-year-old Ojas Deotale have not only brought laurels for the country but have also made the Satara-based Drushti Archery Academy (DAA) proud by becoming India's first-ever female and male compound individual gold medallists in the World championships in Berlin.

While Aditi got enrolled in the academy in 2016 as a 10-year-old and began from the rudimentary, Ojas joined a year ago with some years of experience.

DAA's founder and coach Pravin Sawant looks back at the two archers' journeys with a sense of achievement.

"Initially Aditi was (physically) weak, now she is stronger. She is naturally gifted with determination and focus. She did six to eight hours of practice a day to improve her game," said Sawant, a former compound archer.

"Ojas was a good archer when he came to us. I helped him in his mental preparation, worked a bit on his equipment and got him arrows with the right numbers (to increase his accuracy). Since there were five-six fine archers in our academy, he got good competition there and improved. He used to experience nerves while shooting on a podium, but he has overcome that by competing regularly."

Groomed by an efficient hand, the two down-to-earth archers with exemplary composure undertook a similar journey to make history.

First Aditi, encouraged by her father, joined hands with 18-year-old Parneet Kaur and the seasoned V. Jyothi Surekha to bring home the women's team gold, India's first-ever crown in the World championships.

On the following day, Aditi, who had already made it to the quarterfinals, beat three top opponents to become the first individual champion from the country. Her scalps included multiple Worlds medallist Jyothi Surekha (in the semifinals) and Mexican Andrea Becerra (in the final) as she scored 149 out of a maximum of 150 in both matches to assert her class as a teenage sensation.

Sawant, who does not believe in excuses and had pushed Aditi to take on the challenging conditions and become the double World under-18 champion (individual and team) in Limerick a month ago, had nothing to complain about his ward missing a perfect score so narrowly.

"It happens. Shooting 149 is not easy in the final. There was no pressure on her. She executed the shot nicely, but sometimes small variations can happen because of the wind. The shot was good," said Sawant.

After Aditi played her part in the Indian women team's gold medal win, Sawant's instruction over the phone was specific. "I told her, 'Leave that medal in her bag and focus on tomorrow. 'Tomorrow belongs to me and I will become the champion' should be your motto. Don't perform to beat anyone, just play your game and enjoy it. Just perform for the 52 seconds of the National anthem.'"

Aditi, in her post-match comments, did mention her desire to hear '*Jana gana mana*' on the podium. "I wanted to hear the 52 seconds of the National anthem to be played at the World championships. I was focusing on my rhythm, on my shot," she said.

Hours later, Nagpur boy Ojas raised his game to beat three tough opponents, including World No. 1 and former World champion Dutchman Mike Schloesser in the semifinals and Polish Lukasz Przybylski in the final. After producing 149 in the last-four, Ojas' blemish-free 150 in the title clash was icing on the cake.

"I had the same advice for Ojas. Just told him to keep the mobile aside and have good sleep," said Sawant.

Parental support

Ojas, who got all the support from his sportsperson parents, said his unwavering focus helped him win the World crown with a perfect score. "I thought no matter whatever happens, every arrow will count and I will give my best. I was determined to fight till the end. Against Mike, I did not bother about the opponent and tried to give my best. I made it a point to not look or hear anything (from the stands). I thought, 'Even if I lose, I will not lose easily,'" said Ojas.

So, was the 150-mark playing on his mind?

"No. I did not think about scoring 150. Had I brought that thought into my mind, maybe I would not have been able to achieve the score. In the final, I focused on my rhythm, focus and the process." Another common factor between the two World champions.

> Ojas was a good archer when he came to us. I helped him in his mental preparation, worked a bit on his equipment and got him arrows with the right numbers (to increase his accuracy). Since there were five-six fine archers in our academy, he got good competition there and improved. He used to experience nerves while shooting on a podium, but he has overcome that by competing regularly
>
> **PRAVIN SAWANT**
> Drushti Archery Academy's founder and coach

The calming influence of immensely experienced Italian Sergio Pagni, who is working with the Indian team as the foreign coach, was unmistakable. His special pre-tournament preparation had its contribution in the fabulous showing of the Indian compound archers.

Ojas throws light on the Pagni way of coaching. "Pagni did not let me get under pressure. He teaches us to think that shooting arrows is like a piece of cake and we have to take it. He made us play a game, 'Kill Out'. In that game, you have to focus on the 'X'. If there is any score which is other than 10, then that is not counted. He taught us how to shoot arrows at the centre," said Ojas.

Now that both Aditi and Ojas have achieved the biggest glory compound archery can offer, they are training their focus on living up to the billing in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

"My coaches said, 'Just forget your gold medal and focus on the next competition, the Asian Games.'" said Ojas.

Aditi was also clear about making an impact in the Asiad. "This is just the start. We have the Asian Games coming up, I want to win gold for the country," she said.

The young duo is determined to keep all the post World championships distractions at bay and re-focus on the game to make India proud again in Hangzhou.

THE GIST

- While Aditi got enrolled in the academy in 2016 as a 10-year-old and began from the rudimentary, Ojas joined a year ago with some years of experience
- Aditi joined hands with 18-year-old Parneet Kaur and the seasoned Jyothi Surekha to bring home the women's team gold, India's first-ever crown in the World championships
- Ojas beat three tough opponents, including World No. 1 and former World champion Dutchman Mike Schloesser in the semifinals and Polish Lukasz Przybylski in the final

GAME TIME

Test yourself on some assorted trivia and questions across various sports and games

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In July 2021, what word after a hyphen was added to the Olympic Motto 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' (Faster, Higher, Stronger) in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

QUESTION 2
Who scored the first-ever century for India in Test cricket with a knock of 118 against England in 1933?

QUESTION 3
What annual sporting event happens between Putney and Mortlake on the River Thames in South West London?

QUESTION 4
Which NBA greats have the nicknames 'The Mailman' and 'The Big Dipper'?

QUESTION 5
Who is the only player to have won a 'Golden Slam' in tennis i.e. all the four Majors and the Olympic gold in the same year?

QUESTION 6
As per the latest FIFA rankings for men's teams, which is the second highest Asian nation after Japan?

QUESTION 7
Established in 1882, the Kodokan Institute is the HQ of which Olympic sport?

QUESTION 8
The women's 100m athletics world record has stood the test of time since 1988. Who holds the record?

QUESTION 9
In foil fencing, which part of the body is the target area?

QUESTION 10
Who was the non-striker when Maninder Singh was dismissed to create the second 'Tie' in Test history?

QUESTION 11
Which 'curse' was broken when the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees in the 2004 World Series?

Note: *In the Game Time quiz featured on July 28, the answer to Question 2 is 'Flying Finn' and not as published. Similarly, in Question 2 of Game Time dated August 4, the event where the 'Fosbury Flop' is employed is high jump and not long jump as mentioned.*

Question 12: Name the sport with origins with the indigenous people of North America as early as the 12th century. GETTY IMAGES

THE ANSWERS

1. Communis (Together). The new motto is Citius, Altius, Fortius-Communis (Faster, Higher, Stronger-Together), 2. Lala Amarnath, 3. The 'Boat Race' competition between Oxford and Cambridge universities, 4. Karl Malone and Wilt Chamberlain, 5. Steffi Graf in 1988, 6. Iran, 7. Judo, 8. Florence Griffith-Joyner, 9. Torso, 10. Ravi Shastri, 11. 'Curse of the Bambino', 12. Lacrosse

Police in the dock for demanding money from woman complainant

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bandepalya police allegedly sought money to file documents pertaining to an investigation before the court

Close on the heels of the Whitefield cyber crime police being caught by their Kerala counterparts for allegedly taking money from the accused of an online job fraud, the Bandepalya police are now in the dock for allegedly demanding money from a woman complainant to file documents pertaining to investigations before the court.

Sridevi N., a resident of Mangammanapalya, was allegedly attacked by a tenant of the same building over a row on rent. The accused Saddam allegedly attacked Sridevi with a knife on July 6 and fled the scene following the fight for not paying rent for the last three months. Sridevi was assigned by her landlord to collect rent from the tenant. The police arrested Saddam and his father Nazeer, charging them under wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing grievous injuries, and criminal intimidation, and remanded them to judicial custody.

The accused were released on bail a few days later. Sridevi was allegedly approached by a policeman, identified as Raghavendra, who demanded ₹6,000 towards the photocopy charges of the investigation file to be submitted to the court.

The complainant said the policeman threatened to throw away the file if the money was not paid. She contacted her acquaintance, who brought this to the notice of a senior police officer. The complainant alleged that the Bandepalya police favoured the accused and diluted the charges.

An inquiry has been initiated against the policeman based on which disciplinary action will be initiated, a senior police officer said. Meanwhile, the Bandepalya police rubbished the allegations. Sridevi was admitted to a private hospital and helped to get treatment, they said. The police said the accused were arrested and produced before the court. However, they were not clear on how the accused got out on bail in a week.

Bangalore Turf Club licence renewed for August, races to resume today

Sources say the CM also raised the issue of increasing membership slots at the club by 50, a demand that dates back to 2017

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has renewed the licence for betting at Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) for August, and races will be held on Friday and Saturday.

BTC licence, which has to be renewed every month, for July expired on the last day of that month, and the one for August wasn't renewed immediately, bringing races and off-track bets to a halt. This was reportedly over a decades-old proposal to shift the BTC out to the outskirts of the city.

"The CM has termed the renewal a temporary measure. BTC office bearers will meet concerned officials in the coming week and sort out issues that have been raised by the State government, including shifting races out," Shivakumar Kheny, chairman, BTC, told *The Hindu*.

BTC licence for July expired on the last day of that month, and the one for August wasn't renewed immediately. FILE PHOTO

Sources said the Chief Minister also raised the issue of increasing the membership slots at the club by 50, a demand that dates back to 2017. Then too, the Siddaramaiah-led government had not renewed the licence of the club for a few months, bringing races to a halt. There was a proposal to shift BTC out of the core city at that time as well.

The land on which BTC now stands was gifted to the club by the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore, and the club has challenged the proposal to shift the races out in the Supreme Court, where its petition is still pending. The State government has now proposed to the BTC to file a joint memo before the Supreme Court accepting to shift out, sources said.

"We seem to have little choice in the matter. However, BTC can shift out only if the general body of the club accepts, and only when an alternative facility is ready. It cannot happen overnight, and the modalities of this need to be worked out, including financial assistance to establish a race course at an alternate site," a senior steward at the club said.

Two racing days were cancelled since August 1 due to non-renewal of the licence, which will be compensated in the coming weeks, said Mr. Kheny. "There will be races at the club for four days in the remaining weeks of August in such a way that they do not clash with races at other clubs. This will include races on two days as compensation to the two days when races were scheduled but not held," he said, adding off-track bets that were not open during the last 10 days couldn't be compensated in any way.

I will stick to PAC advice, says H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil on Thursday said he would stick to the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the State Legislature in 2020 on the cancellation of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) licence and development of the BTC area as a park on the lines of Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens in the city.

The PAC report tabled in the Legislature in 2020 and headed by Mr. Patil had said BTC land should be developed on the lines of the Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens and Cubbon Park to strike a balance between environment and pollution and increasing green cover. The government should develop it as a park with all modern facilities.

Though there have been discussions to shift the BTC since 1968, no serious attempt has been made to shift it to the outskirts of the city, it said.

राज्य ललित कला अकादमी, संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

मूर्ति के निर्माण एवं स्थापना हेतु

अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना

पत्रांक - 184 / I-446 / 2023-24 दिनांक - 10 अगस्त, 2023

संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा मूर्तियों के निर्माण / स्थापना के अन्तर्गत गुरू गोरखनाथ जी की ब्राँज मूर्ति बैठी हुई योगमुद्रा के निर्माण हेतु ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश शासन की ई–निविदा वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in/** पर अपलोड करने हेतु निम्नवत् उपलब्ध रहेगी :–

गुरू गोरखनाथ जी की ब्राँज मूर्ति बैठी हुई योगमुद्रा में बाघम्बर पर बैठी हुई 51 फिट होगी। त्रिशूल 51 फिट दायां हाथ वरदहस्त तथा बायां हाथ योगदण्ड (ध्यान छड़ी) पर टिका हुआ मूर्ति के दोनों तरफ एक–एक 13–13 फिट की गायें रहेंगी, मूर्ति के ऊपर आनुपातिक रूप से छतरी (ऊँचाई 18 फिट फहराते हुए झण्डे के साथ व छतरी की चौड़ाई 26 फिट, मूर्ति के नीचे 11 फिट ऊँचा आर.सी.सी. का पैडेस्टल जिसके सम्मुख बाघ का सिर होगा। मूर्ति की सभी उक्त विशिष्टयों के साथ कुल अनुमानित ऊँचाई 80 फिट, चौड़ाई 60 फिट, लम्बाई 70 फिट होनी चाहिए। मूर्ति की स्थापना गुरू गोरखनाथ पर्वत (गोरखगिरी हिल), महोबा, उत्तर प्रदेश में स्थापित होगी। निविदादाता गुरू गोरखनाथ पर्वत, महोबा, उत्तर प्रदेश का स्थलीय निरीक्षण करते हुए प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं। निविदा ई–निविदा वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in/** पर **दिनांक 14.08.2023 सायं 04:00 बजे** से **दिनांक 29.08.2023** को **अपराह्न 01:00 बजे** तक अपलोड की जा सकती हैं। प्री–बिड मीटिंग **दिनांक 22.08.2023** को **सायं 04:00 बजे** पर्यटन भवन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में होगी। निविदा **दिनांक 29.08.2023** को **सायं 05:00 बजे** खोली जायेगी।

निविदा फार्म की धनराशि तथा धरोहर धनराशि से सम्बन्धित जानकारी ई–निविदा वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in/** पर उपरोक्तानुसार उपलब्ध होगी। निविदादाताओं द्वारा उपरोक्तानुसार टेण्डर फार्म एवं **EMD** की धनराशि राज्य ललित कला अकादमी, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ के स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया (मुख्य शाखा) खाता संख्या–**10863755966 IFSC Code-SBIN 0000125** में जमा करना होगा तथा यू.टी.आर. नं. ई–निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ साझा करते हुए अकादमी की ईमेल–**slka_up@yahoo.com** पर भी भेजना होगा।

निर्धारित तिथि व समय तक ई–निविदा वेबसाइट पर अपलोड निविदाएं उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन भवन, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ / राज्य ललित कला अकादमी, उत्तर प्रदेश, लाल बारादरी भवन, ललित कला अकादमी मार्ग, निकट पुराना हाईकोर्ट, कैसरबाग, लखनऊ–226001 में उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेंगी।

निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार अध्यक्ष / मूर्ति निर्माण समिति, राज्य ललित कला अकादमी, उ0प्र0 के पक्ष में सुरक्षित रहेगा एवं निर्धारित शर्तों का उल्लंघन करने पर धरोहर धनराशि जब्त कर ली जाएगी।

-निदेशक

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

Head Office : 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010
Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id. : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-TENDER No. BS4/019690/2023/ TNCSC/23-24
Date:10.08.2023

Online e-tender invited for "THE PURCHASE OF 99,000 Nos. of 'Y' cone as per specification

Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date for Online Submission: **upto 11.00 AM on 26.08.2023**

DIPR/4446/Tender/2023 **Managing Director**

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Kolar

E-procurement Short-Term Tender Notification No:05/2023-24, Dated:07.08.2023

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department invites tender for the scheme of Jal Jeevan Mission (Functional household tap Connection) **2023-24** of Kolar District. Item rate tenders by two cover system through e-procurement portal. Those who have registered in PWD/CPWD (Government of Karnataka) are eligible in participation of tendering for more details visit website **:http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for online submission of Bid is **25.08.2023 upto 17.30 hours.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O:89/KSMCA/2023-24

Government of Karnataka

District Health and Family Welfare Office, DC Office Haveri

Ph : 08375-297359 Email : dsohaveri@gmail.com

E-Tender Notification

ಸನ್ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ NFDS ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಪ್ರಾ.ಆ.ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ Diagnostic kits/Chemical/ Consumables ಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ / ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಮೂಲ ತಯಾರಕರು / ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು/ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ (www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in) ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

(1) Tender Reference Number No: DSU/NFDS/01/2023-24. (2) Date of publishing Tender Document on e-Procurement platform : **14-08-2023** (3) Last date for submission of tenders **28-08-2023** 4.00 pm. (4) Date and time of opening of Technical bids : **29-08-2023** 4.30 pm. (5) Date and time of opening of Financial Bids : Will Intimate later. (6) Total Tender Value : Rs. **82,20,000** (7) Earnest Money Deposit Rs. **2,05,500** (8) Place of opening of bids : District Health & Family Welfare Office, DC Office, Haveri Phone No: **08375-297359** (9) Address for communication : District & Health & Family Welfare Office, District Surveillance Office, Haveri Phone No : **08375-297359**

Sd/- District Surveillance Office, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/107/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer,
RDW&S, Division, Mysore

Short Term Tender Notification No: 04/2022-23
Date: 07.08.2023

Short Term Tender Notification is as below.

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under **KW-1/2/3/4** Standard Bid documents (Single & Two cover system) has been called for 18 works & 2 O&M (Estimate cost Rs.18.39–245.84 Lakhs) of Nanjangud ,Mysuru, Hunsur, Periyapatna & T Narasipura Taluk under the Head of Account: 2215 Jal Jeevan Mission & 4215 MVS O&M. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Date: 11.08.2023 11:00 AM onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is 18.08.2023 up to 5:00 PM, Opening of Technical bid 19.08.2023, 5.00 PM onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 – 22485867, 080-22485927 For more details log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460 495.Tender Form Fees – As per e-procurement.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/186/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

THE HINDU GROUP

Gold Winner PRESENTS

The search for the Master Chef of Karnataka

THE HINDU our State our Taste

CO PRESENTED BY RKG AGMARK GHEE

POWERED BY Butterfly 40

IN ASSOCIATION WITH AASHIRVAAD Parry's EVEREST

*Map not to scale.

DO YOU HAVE THE RECIPE FOR FAME AND SUCCESS?

Karnataka's most delicious contest is coming to your town. Cook a traditional Kannada dish, or give it a special twist and bring it to the venue.

If our jury loves it, you could be shortlisted for the grand live cooking finale in Bengaluru. Your culinary skills can make you the next **Master Chef of Karnataka.**

Get your dishes judged by Celebrity Chef duo
Oggarane Dabbi Murali & Suchitra Muralidhar

To participate:
Scan the QR code or register at **bit.ly/OSOT2023** (or) WhatsApp / Call / SMS your Name <space> City <space> Name of dish to:
96064 74973 / 96064 74974

1 LAKH* FIRST PRIZE
60,000* SECOND PRIZE
40,000* THIRD PRIZE

*T&C apply.

Gold Winner Mandatory to present one dish using Gold Winner cooking oil and bring the used wrapper/container to the contest venue.

Click a picture of your Butterfly appliance and show at the venue. Get additional points!

Regional winners from each city will get products from Butterfly 40

Bring wrapper/ containers of RKG Ghee, AASHIRVAAD Atta, Parry's Sugar & Bambino to the venue and get extra points.

Raichur
August 12, 2023 | 10:30 am onwards
Hotel Pavan Mansion, SIRI Convention Hall (A Group of Shakthi Hardware), Behind Canara Bank, Lingsugur Road, Raichur - 584 101.

Yadgir
August 13, 2023 | 10:30 am onwards
SDN Residencey, Balaji Temple Road, near Govt Degree College, Yadgiri - 585 202.

Presenting Partner Gold Winner | Co Presented by RKG | Powered by Butterfly 40 | In association with AASHIRVAAD Parry's EVEREST | Vermicelli Partner BAMBINO | TV Partner ಸಿರಿ ಕನ್ನಡ TV

Government of Karnataka

Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 01/2023-24 DATE: 26-07-2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER) KW- 4)

Item rate tender in two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD (KW4) for the following work through e-procurement portal.

Name of work:- (1) CONSTRUCTION OF SERIES OF CHECKDAMS TO STREAM /HALLA IN MOLAKALMURU TALUK OF CHITRADURGA DISTRICT UNDER CEPMIZ Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-945.10 (2) CONSTRUCTION OF SERIES OF CHECKDAMS TO STREAM /HALLA IN CHITRADURGA TALUK OF CHITRADURGA DISTRICT UNDER CEPMIZ. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 395.81 (3) CONSTRUCTION OF SERIES OF CHECKDAMS TO GUNDIHALLA IN HOSADURGA TALUK OF CHITRADURGA DISTRICT UNDER CEPMIZ Amount put to tender in Lakhs:- 1096.49

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 28-07-2023, Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 11-08-2023 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 14-08-2023 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 16-08-2023 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 17-08-2023 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/147/2023-24 Sd/- Executive Engineer, MID, Chitradurga

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

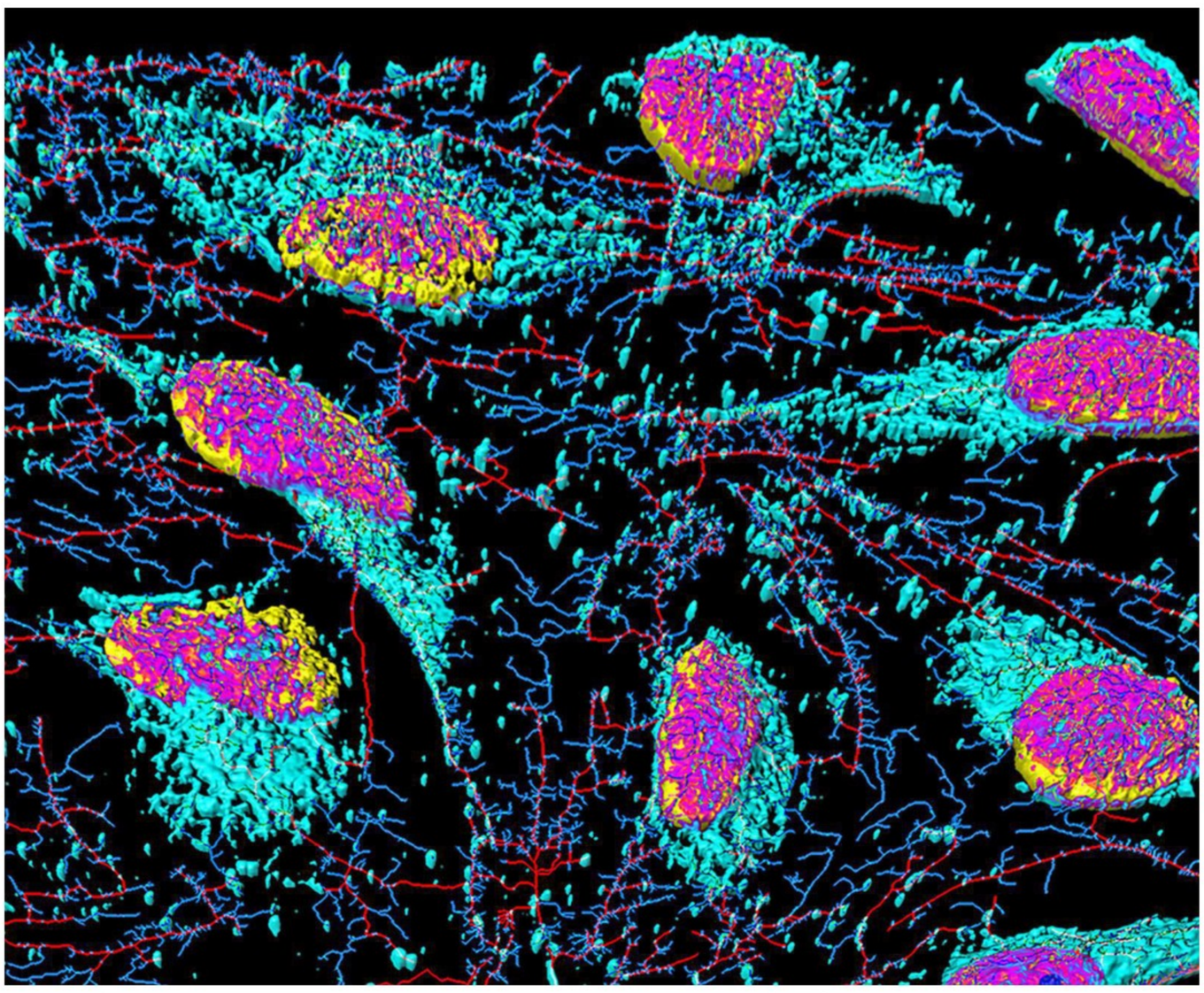
KPCL invites bids through e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

(1) KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT257/CALL-2, DT: 08.08.2023 for **"Overhauling/Reconditioning works of 24 No. 415V/70kV, 1000mA HVRTs of Unit 3 at RTPS".** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **16.08.2023 up tp 17.00 Hrs. (2) KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT276 Dated: 02.08.2023,** for **"Retrofittingof Alstom make Motor Protection relay with GE make Micom P241 numerical relay".** Last date and time for submission of tender (both Cover 1 & 2): **04.09.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs. (3) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT421, Dated: 03.08.2023,** for **"Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Ultrasonic Level Transmitters with local indicators at Forebays of Units 5,6,7 & 8". Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 21.08.2023 at 17:00 Hrs. (4) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT439, Dated: 05.08.2023,** for **"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of PSF & MB Air Blowers at DM Plant-2". Last date & time for submission of completed tender documents: 21.08.2023 at 16:00 Hrs. (5) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT440, Dated: 07.08.2023,** for **"Replacement of HPMV/SV fittings into LED well glass fittings in Unit#5, 6 & 7 Mill zero meter to ESP botom ash area at RTPS". Last date for receipt of tenders: 04.09.2023 up to 17:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (LT)-1, Mob:9449596537 (for Sl.No. 1),Executive Engineer (HT-2), Mob:9449596528 (for Sl.No. 2), Executive Engineer (I-4), Mob:9449596558 (for Sl.No. 3), Executive Engineer (CAM)-2 (for Sl.No. 4) & Executive Engineer (PPS), Mob: 9449598834 (for Sl. No. 5), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District.**

An immortal cell line and reparation, 70 years later

Lacks' cancer provided the mutation required for her cells to evade normal cell death. HeLa cells were the first human cells to be successfully cloned in 1953 by Theodore Puck and Philip I. Marcus at the University of Colorado. Since then, HeLa cells have 'continually been used for research'

Ramya Kannan



Nuclei, microfilaments and membrane particles in HeLa cells. Taken on space missions to study the effects of space travel on living cells and tissue, HeLa cells divided even more quickly in zero gravity. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

If much of the debate in health care is about equity, in a sense practically every innovation in biological care has been based on a con job, a steal. The biggest strike to rectify decades of wrong came last week, when biotech company Thermo Fisher Scientific came to an agreement with the family of Henrietta Lacks, whose cancer cells were removed from her without her permission when under treatment in a hospital in Maryland.

These cells went on to become an immortalised cell line called HeLa (for Henrietta Lacks) used in scientific research. It is reportedly the most commonly used cell line across the world, and yet neither the patient, a 31- year old poor, African American woman nor her family were acknowledged or compensated for the contribution. The cells were taken from the patient when she was under treatment for cervical cancer. That wrong was righted last week.

Cell culture is the process by which cells are grown in a petridish, in a lab in controlled conditions, outside of their natural environment. These cells are used in critical and path breaking scientific research to develop drugs, vaccines (polio), study the effects of radiation, how pathogens affect humans, gene mapping and the list could go on. Usually cells cultured in the lab from human cells could be kept alive for only a few days, subject to the phenomenon of cellular senescence, or the cessation of cell division. However, all that changed when Henrietta Lacks appeared on the firmament of cell biology with a bunch of cells that behaved like nothing scientists had ever seen before, allowing them to create an 'immortalised cell line'.

An immortalised cell line is a population of cells which would normally not proliferate indefinitely but, due to mutations, have achieved the ability to keep on dividing, never reaching the point of senescence. Johns Hopkins biologist George Otto Gey was initially foxed by the fact that Henrietta's cells were behaving differently when dunked in a culture medium and stirred in a roller drum - they were constantly multiplying and did not require a glass surface to grow. It was observed that the cells doubled every 20-24 hours unlike previous specimens that died out. He realised their potential and went on to turn this into what would probably count among modern science's greatest tools - a widely shared immortalised cell line. It is said that in the 1960s, HeLa cells that were taken on space missions to study the effects of space travel on living cells and tissue, divided even more quickly in zero gravity.

It is averred that Lacks' cervical cancer provided the mutation that was required for her cells to evade normal cell death. HeLa cells were the first human cells to be successfully cloned in 1953 by Theodore Puck and Philip I. Marcus at the University of Colorado, Denver, and since then, HeLa cells have "continually been used for research."

There is no doubt she contributed unknowingly perhaps to several scientific discoveries, cures for maladies and vaccines, but Lacks herself did not survive, her permission was not sought to take her cells (as was common at that time), and she died tragically at the young age of 31. She might have been consigned to mortal transience, ironically despite her uniquely immortal cells and the benefit they conferred to the human race. But for Rebecca Skloot, who as a young girl heard of Henrietta Lacks and her cell line from a tutor and was intrigued that she had never heard of her before, despite her seminal contribution to science. Skloot never lost interest, but went on to, as an adult write a fascinating story: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, in 2010, to shine a light on the truth, in an attempt to not only tell the world about what actually happened, but also seek justice for the family.

" There's no way of knowing exactly how many of Henrietta's cells are alive today. One scientist estimates that if you could pile all HeLA cells ever grown on to a scale, they'd weight more than 50 million metric tons - an inconceivable number, given that individual cell weighs almost nothing," writes Skloot. In comparison, there was literally nothing in the public sphere about Henrietta Lacks until Skloot went digging.

Henrietta Lacks was born as Loretta Pleasant in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 1, 1920, the 9th child of Eliza and Johnny Pleasant. Her mother died four years later in childbirth, and her father moved with his 10 children to Clover, Virginia, where he sent them off to relatives to live. Henrietta went to her grandfather who was incidentally raising another cousin David Day who she went on to marry. The Days then moved to Maryland, after he found a job in a steel factory.

Skloot records that before her fifth pregnancy, Henrietta had unusual bleeding, and a lump developed on her cervix, after the birth. Reluctantly, she decided it was time to go the hospital. At the gynaecology department at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a biopsy revealed the cervical tumour that had been hitherto missed, though she had been under care during the birth and post-natal period too.

Henrietta went on to undergo radiotherapy to the cervix. It was then that the surgeon extracted two small tissue samples: one from the tumour and the other from healthy tissue nearby. Notably, we learn from the book that Henrietta herself was unaware that any sample had been taken. Consent of the patients, particularly of African American descent, at that time was not even considered. The more notorious violation was the Tuskegee Syphillus Study - for unethical experimentation on African American patients in rural America. Meanwhile, Lacks' children continued to be eviscerated by poverty.

It was after the book was published that the timeline sets itself on a path of correction. The National Institutes of Health , in the US reportedly set up a panel with Lacks family members to review requests to conduct further research on HeLa cells. This was the first time that the family felt included in their grand matriarch's contribution to the world. As *Nature* went on to record in an article after the announcement of compensation last week: The cells have been instrumental in at least three Nobel-prizewinning discoveries, but Lacks's family was not compensated for those uses.

> Lacks herself was unaware that any sample had been taken. Consent of the patients, particularly of African American descent, at that time was not even considered

Nature further recorded that in the wake of protests over racial justice in 2020, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in Chevy Chase, Maryland, announced a six-figure gift to the Henrietta Lacks Foundation, founded by Skloot to provide assistance to individuals and family members who have been affected by non-consensual medical studies.

Thermo Fisher Scientific's settlement with the Lacks family is a gesture from the users themselves. Thermo Fisher in Waltham, Massachusetts, sells products derived from the cells. While the details of the settlement are still not in the public domain, one thing is certain: It will give the Lacks family agency over how the cells are used. Reparation has been made, in a sense, but there is hope because, in this, is the acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past, and a desire to render justice, even if seven decades later.

New mothers grappling with childbirth and changes in their body, have to deal with months of broken sleep. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Rock-a-bye mama: the importance of sleep for new mothers

Zubeda Hamid

World Breastfeeding Week just drew to a close on August 7, 2023, but there's another aspect to new motherhood that perhaps requires a little more conversation: the gruelling effects of lack of sleep.

Not only do many new mothers grapple with the aftermath of childbirth, trying to establish breastfeeding and coping with the changes in their body, they also have to deal with months of broken sleep, all the while looking after a tiny human. A 2019 study published in the journal *Sleep* in fact, found that new parents could face up to six years of sleep deprivation. Not surprisingly, women faced greater sleep losses than men.

Up until last month, says Suparna S. Thantry, mother to twins born in April, even three hours of sleep at a stretch was a luxury. This month it's been slightly better: she's managing to get about four

Fragmented sleep can lead to anxiety, irritability, poor focus and concentration and fatigue during the day in new mothers

hours. "The twins keep me up at night, playing, sometimes cranky, and even when they do sleep, I barely have time: I have to catch up on general chores, look after my older daughter and express breastmilk for them for when they wake up," says the 32-year-old.

And yes, babies are hard work, and are known to wake up in the night, but more and more research is telling us something simple yet crucial: good sleep is important for good health. Sleep deprivation in fact, is considered by many as a form of torture!

This January, a study published in the journal *BMC Psychology* found that mothers with higher levels of fatigue, poor sleep quality, and low resilience levels, were at high risk of developing post-partum depression.

This serious risk apart, fragmented sleep can lead to anxiety, irritability, poor focus and concentration and fatigue during the day in new mothers, said N. Ramakrishnan, director, Nithra Sleep Institute, Chennai.

"A good support system, where, for instance, mothers can catch up on sleep during the day, is important," he says. While most mothers tough it out and do manage to sleep better once the baby sleeps through the night and generally, get better at it the second time around, if, at any point they feel they cannot cope, they should get help," Dr. Ramakrishnan emphasises.

While acknowledging that different age groups need different amounts of sleep, the Sleep Foundation (sleep foundation.org) recommends that most healthy adults need at least seven hours of sleep each night, while infants, young children, and teenagers should get more sleep to support growth and development. Apparently the recommendations were evolved with the American Academy of Sleep Medicine bringing together a panel of sleep experts to review hundreds of high-quality research studies about sleep duration and key health outcomes like cardiovascular disease, depression, pain, and diabetes.

Sensitising health workers to transgender women, gay men

Serena Josephine M.

A group of researchers set out to find if interventions among healthcare providers can help in improving their understanding and attitude towards transgender women (TGW) and men who have sex with men (MSM). They have demonstrated that a specifically designed intervention module comprising workshops and explainer videos had positive outcomes among healthcare workers in two government hospitals in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

The intervention showed preliminary evidence for improving positive attitudes, comfort level and understanding of the healthcare issues of MSM and TGW among healthcare workers (HCW), warranting large-scale implementation research.

In an article - Efficacy of a multi-level pilot intervention ('Harmony') to reduce discrimination faced by men who have sex with men and transgender women in public hospitals in India: Findings from a pre- and post-test quasi-experimental trial among healthcare workers - published in *Venereology* recently, the researchers have elaborated how they tested the efficacy of an intervention among 98 healthcare workers (HCW) to reduce sexual orientation and gender identity-related stigma and discrimination faced by MSM and TGW in the two centres. The HCWs included clinicians, nurses, counsellors and other staff such as lab technicians.

The effort is to reduce discrimination and improve outcomes. GETTY IMAGES

One of the collaborators of the study, Sudharshini S., Associate Professor, Institute of Community Medicine, Madras Medical College/Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, said that TGW and MSM often felt that there was discrimination and lack of access to hospital services, both in the government and private sectors.

"Some of the issues faced by Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGM) are limited knowledge and understanding about them among healthcare staff, resulting in suboptimal care, increased chances of negative interactions and discrimination. Some healthcare providers/staff (not all staff) look down upon SGM because of their sexual orientation/behaviour, gender identity or gender expression," principal investigator Venkatesan Chakrapani, chairperson, Centre for Sexuality and Health Research and Policy, Chennai, said.

The researchers developed an intervention - Harmony: a half-day workshop at the group-level and four videos at the individual levels.

"We roped in MSM and TGW as co-trainers to share their stories with the healthcare staff. Next, we created four short videos detailing the issues faced by MSM and TGW in healthcare settings. These videos were shared with healthcare staff (one per week for four weeks) ," Dr. Sudharshini said.

Dr. Chakrapani added that a checklist was shared with hospital administration of potential steps to make the hospital friendly for SGM and to enhance quality of care for them.

Assessing the efficacy of the intervention, the researchers found that the positive attitude scores increased by 20% from baseline to follow-up and by 30% from post-intervention to follow-up. There was a significant increase of 23% in the comfort level in providing care to MSM and TGW from baseline to post-intervention. There was increased support for non-discriminatory hospital policy. Client surveys were conducted among 400 MSM/TGW attending the intervention hospitals, before intervention among HCWs and three months after the intervention.

RGGGH dean E. Theranirajan said it was important to sensitise doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to do away with the stigma and discrimination. "Sensitising them is important as it would have an impact on the healthcare provided for TGW and MSM," he said.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

EPFO's investments in ETFs during April-July this fiscal

13,017 In Rs crore. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) invested ₹ 53,081 crore in exchange-traded funds in 2022-23, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli said. PTI

Disability from pollution-related diseases

31 in percentage. A study published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* analysed particulate matter pollution as a risk factor for premature death and years of disability using data from 204 countries collected between 1990-2019. PTI

Rise in domestic passenger vehicle wholesales in July

2.57 in percentage. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers data, dispatches of passenger vehicles from manufacturers to dealers increased to 3,50,149 units in July 2023. PTI

Inter-State Transmission System projects completed

269 projects. Union Power Minister R K Singh informed that out of this, 45 projects are under Tariff-based Competitive Bidding mode and 224 projectsare under Regulated Tariff Mechanism mode. PTI

Nuclear products' worth sold by Russia to the U.S. and Europe

1.7 In $ billion. The U.S. and its European allies are importing nuclear fuel and compounds from Russia, providing Moscow with millions of dollars in badly needed revenue as it wages war on Ukraine. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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China's deflation; a cause for concern?

Why is China experiencing deflation while other countries grapple with rising inflation? What role does falling demand play? Amidst global inflation concerns, what factors are contributing to China's current deflationary trend? How does deflation impact consumer behaviour, and could it potentially hinder economic growth in China?

EXPLAINER

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:
Consumer prices in China declined for the first time in over two years in July. The consumer price index declined 0.3% in July from a year earlier, leading to calls for steps to boost demand. Producer prices also dropped for the 10th consecutive month, contracting 4.4% in July. This is in contrast to the rest of the world where inflation has been the most pressing problem of late.

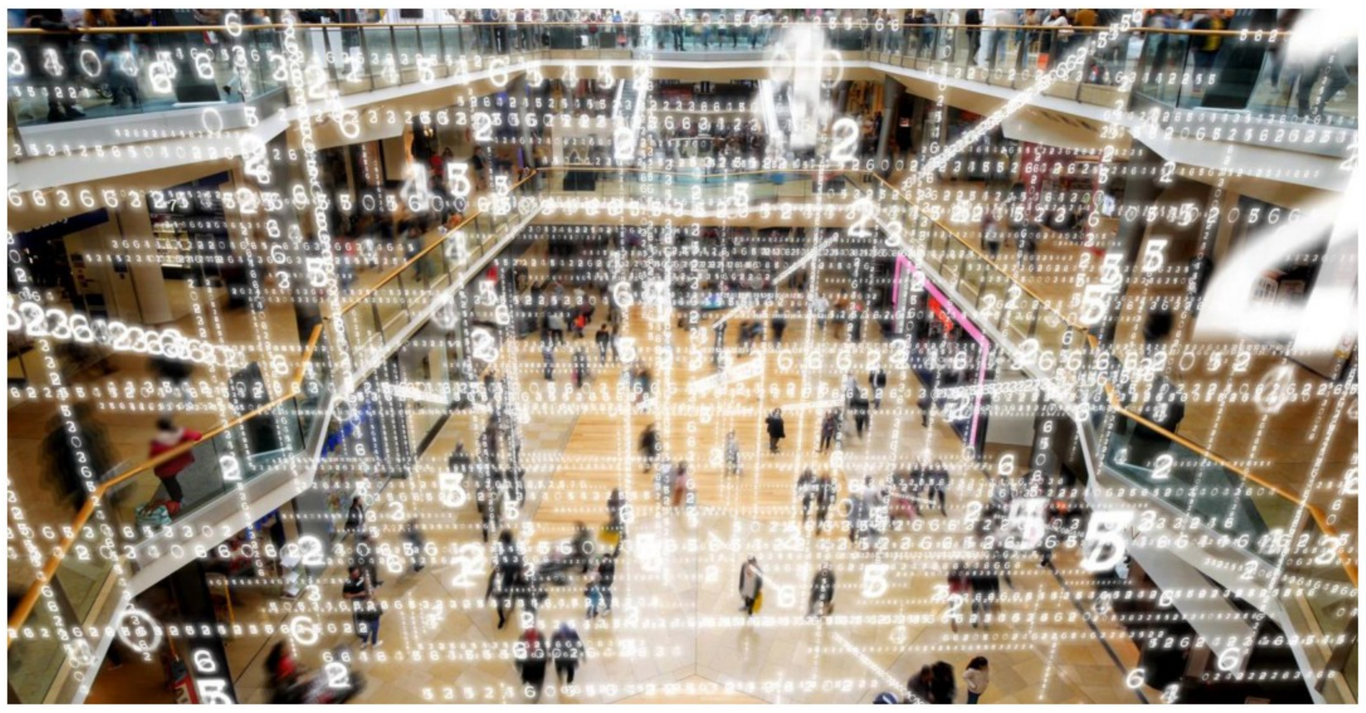
What is deflation?
Deflation is a term that is used these days to refer to a general fall in the prices of goods and services in an economy. The definition of deflation, however, has not always remained constant. In the past, the terms inflation and deflation were used to refer to a rise or a fall, respectively, in the money supply rather than a rise or fall in prices. A rise in the money supply was expected to contribute to higher prices in the wider economy while a fall in the money supply was believed to lead to lower prices.

Why is it a worry?
Many economists believe that deflation is a sign of falling demand for goods and services which could lead to a slowdown in economic growth. According to them, the demand for goods and services is the driver of economic growth. Falling prices, can also push buyers to postpone their purchases expecting lower prices in the future; this in turn can further dampen demand in the economy, they argue. A certain degree of inflation is believed to be necessary for the full utilisation of the resources in an economy. Further, it is said that deflation can lead to business losses and lower growth as costs remain sticky. It can also mess up credit contracts as borrowers will have to pay back lenders more in real terms. Hence, these economists recommend that the Chinese government and the Chinese central bank should take the necessary steps to boost demand in the economy.

Other economists point out that deflation per se may not be a problem. Many economies including the U.S. and China in the past, they note, have experienced deflation during times of rapid economic growth. Even a country like Japan, which has been plagued by persistent deflation for years, actually witnessed a rise in per capita real income levels during the era of deflation. Deflation in such cases is the result of a rise in the supply of goods and services that outpaces the rate of money supply growth. It should also be noted that it is not quite uncommon for countries experiencing high price inflation to suffer from low or even negative economic growth at the same time. However, deflation can also be a sign of economic turmoil. During times of economic crises, spending by individuals can drop temporarily as they become more cautious. Sometimes deflation in the official price indicators can also be a sign of a process of reallocation of resources. Spending on goods whose prices are captured by official indicators may drop while spending on other goods may even rise.

These economists also argue that deflation need not cause consumers to postpone purchases as widely believed. It is not the prices that determine consumer demand for goods and services, but it is rather consumer demand that determines prices. The direction of causation runs from consumer demand to prices rather than the reverse. Moreover, deflation need not cause sustained business losses since businesses can adjust what they pay for their inputs according to what their customers are willing to pay for their goods and services.

Why is China experiencing deflation?
China is experiencing deflation at a time when the People's Bank of China, or the Chinese central bank, continues to keep interest rates low to boost demand in the economy. This is in contrast to other central banks which have been tightening policy to fight high inflation after the Covid-19 pandemic. The likely reason behind Chinese deflation may not be the lack of liquidity but rather something more fundamental. A proper study of the Chinese money supply and monetary transmission can help us come to a definite conclusion on the reason behind the current bout of deflation. It should be noted that the Chinese economy has been experiencing turmoil even before the pandemic, in the property sector which contributes to a share of Chinese GDP. The Chinese policymakers have been trying to bring about a soft landing of their economy. Credit booms like the one witnessed in China can cause the misallocation of resources and the bust can involve a fall in broader prices.



THE GIST

- Consumer prices in China have experienced a decline, with the consumer price index dropping by 0.3% in July from the previous year.
- Deflation is generally understood as a fall in the prices of goods and services in an economy.
- China's experience of deflation contradicts the global trend, as its central bank has maintained low interest rates to boost demand;
it could be indicative of deeper, underlying issues beyond liquidity shortage.
- The property sector, a significant contributor to China's GDP, has been undergoing turmoil even before the pandemic.

Will the Federal fund hike impact developing country debt?

How will the 21-Year high Federal funds rate affect global economies? Are developing countries prepared for the consequences of federal fund rate increase?

S Krishnakumar

The story so far:
In the recently concluded Federal Open Market Committee meeting on July 26, 2023, the targeted federal funds rate was raised to 5.25-5.5%, a 25 basis points increase. This puts the rate at a 21-year high, surpassing the levels seen in 2001. Fed Reserve President Jerome Powell addressed the press conference and explained that the decision was aimed at reducing inflation to 2%. Despite the interest rate hike, he pointed out that employment numbers have been on the rise.

What is the federal funds rate?
The federal funds rate, currently set between 5.25% to 5.5%, plays a crucial role in the economy as it determines lending rates among banks. Following the global financial crisis, rates were near zero until 2015. However, with the pandemic, rates dropped to 0.05%. Since March 2022, there has been a steady increase in the rate, leading to concerns about the world economy's ability to withstand such a sharp rise of more than 450 basis points within a year. The Federal Reserve intervenes in the market through bond purchases or sales to maintain the targeted rate range.

What consequences would this have on the rest of the world?
The rest of the world faces a different situation compared to the green shoots of growth seen in the U.S. economy; they are yet to come out of the pandemic and are battling with growing debt servicing concerns. The large-scale expansion of the balance sheets of the advanced country central banks since the global financial crisis had reduced interest rates to abysmally low levels. This has facilitated carry trade, with agents borrowing in dollars and investing in emerging markets to benefit from interest margins due to the higher interest in developing countries. Between 2011 and 2016, external debt stocks in low and middle-income countries doubled, reaching 181.1% of their GDP. By 2020, it exceeded 200% of their GDP.

In the developing world, non-financial corporations took advantage of low global interest rates to borrow cheaply. Approximately $5.14 trillion of the total outstanding dollar debt of $13 trillion held by non-financial corporations outside the U.S. is from emerging markets and developing economies. With rising interest rates and currency depreciation, unhedged dollar debts could pose serious problems for these corporations.

Will the rate hike impact corporates?
In the international economy, there has been a substantial increase in private non-guaranteed (PNG) debt taken by corporations, while governments continue to be important borrowers. As interest rates in advanced countries rise, foreign investors may abandon government securities in developing economies, leading to currency depreciation and increased borrowing costs. This situation exacerbates debt servicing concerns for developing countries, where foreigners play a major role in the government securities market, unlike India.

The World Bank's recent debt report reveals that the poorest countries borrowing through the International Development Association (IDA) spend 10% of export earnings on servicing debt, the highest since 2000.

Climate goals are affected due to financial constraints.

What could be done?
A collective effort is needed to reform the international financial system, addressing its asymmetries.

It is indeed a fact that no Great Wall of China can resist the power of the monetary policy decisions of the U.S. Federal Reserve. But the U.S. monetary policy seems to be bothered only about domestic concerns, ignoring the larger considerations of a volatile global economy caught between the falling health and education infrastructure on the one hand and climate vulnerabilities and unusual weather events on the other hand.

Massive scaling up of contingency financing for needy countries and expansion of affordable long term financing for development is required to address the growing concerns of developing country debt.

(The author teaches economics at Sri Venkateswara College University of Delhi)

THE GIST

- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) recently increased the targeted federal funds rate to 5.25-5.5%, reaching a 21-year high.
- The rate hike aims to reduce inflation to 2%, and despite the increase, employment numbers have been positive in the U.S.
- The federal funds rate is the rate at which banks lend and borrow excess reserves in the overnight market.

HC refuses to interfere with six-year age criterion fixed for admission to Class I

It passes the order while dismissing a petition filed by a four-year-old, represented by her father

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Refusing to interfere with the age criterion of six years fixed for admission to Class I, based on the National Education Policy-2020 in the State, the High Court of Karnataka has said that the courts, under the garb of judicial review, cannot alter the educational guidelines evolved by experts keeping in mind the overall growth of children.

"The NEP-2020 guidelines are brought into force with a hope that it will address multiple problem areas across educational institutions that require improvement.

Prima facie, I am convinced that there is a core focus on enabling holistic development of students and therefore, one student's inconvenience that he/she will be compelled to repeat the class cannot in itself constitute a ground to interfere with the guidelines," Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum observed.

Petitioner LKG student

The court passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by a four-year-old, Tishika Aniket, represented by her father.

The petitioner, who is studying in nursery of a private school affiliated to CBSE, was denied promotion to LKG for the reason that she would not complete the age of six years when she becomes eligible for admission to Class I as per the new guidelines issued by the Government based on NEP and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act.

It was contended in the petition that new age criteria can only be implemented prospectively.

However, the court said that the Karnataka Education Department has rightly mandated that minimum age limit for admission to class-I in schools in Karnataka should be six years as on June 1 while refusing to accept the petitioner's contention that it has be implemented prospectively.

> *Prima facie*, I am convinced that there is a core focus on enabling holistic development of students and therefore, one student's inconvenience that he/she will be compelled to repeat the class cannot in itself constitute a ground to interfere with the guidelines.
>
> **JUSTICE SACHIN SHANKAR MAGADUM**
> Karnataka High Court

The admission guidelines issued by the school and the Government are found to be legal and in conformity with NEP-2020, the court said.

"The NEP guidelines in fixing the age criteria is based on overall global education standards. Following the adoption of Global Education Development Agenda, India is seeking to ensure inclusive and equitable education for all by 2030. The new 5+3+3+4 education system aims at developing individuals with emphasis on cognitive capacities," the court observed.

This policy, the court said, proposes to replace the existing 10+2 structure of school education with a 5+3+3+4 education system covering ages 3 to 18 and includes kindergarten/play school education, and this classification of stages in NEP was done based on the intellectual growth of a student.

"In the earlier model, the age group of 3 to 6 was not covered. Therefore, experts have come up with a new guidelines with a hope that a strong foundation of early childhood care and education would be given to the students and this is obviously aimed at promoting play-based, activity-based, inquiry-based and flexible way of learning," Justice Magadum observed.

"The courts cannot interfere when the experts are of the view that policy focuses on formative and holistic assessment to reduce exam-related pressure and fear among students as the students reach to a higher secondary education," the court said.

IISc to organise GATE 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, will be the organising institute for Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2024.

The examination is conducted by IISc and seven IITs comprising IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Roorkee, on behalf of the National Coordination Board (NCB) - GATE, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India.

Admission opportunites

Candidates who qualify Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering can seek admission to master's programmes and direct doctoral programmes in engineering, technology, architecture, science, and humanities; and doctoral programmes in relevant branches of engineering, science, and humanities, with possible financial assistance in institutions supported by Ministry of Education (MoE) and other Government agencies.

GATE score is also used by some colleges and institutions for admission to postgraduate programmes without MoE scholarship.

Several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have also been using GATE score for recruitment. Several other reputed organisations are also likely to use GATE score in their recruitment process.

GATE 2024 will be conducted as a computer-based test (CBT), with 30 test papers that will be in the English language.

Three-year validity

Candidates have the option to appear for one or two test papers from the allowed two-paper combinations. The GATE score obtained by the candidates will remain valid for a period of three years from the date of announcement of results.

GATE 2024 also features a new test paper on 'Data Science and Artificial Intelligence', which caters to the needs of aspirants who wish to pursue higher education in these cutting-edge areas.

Examination details

The application portal is expected to open in the last week of August 2023.

The examination will be conducted on February 3, 4, 10, and 11, 2024. The examination will be conducted in both forenoon and afternoon sessions on each of these days.

For further details, visit GATE 2024 website: https://gate2024.iisc.ac.in/

Items seized from IMA Group stolen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Items seized from the IMA Group were stolen from the IMA gold building on Lady Curzon Road in Commercial Street in Bengaluru on August 8 despite round-the-clock security. Special officer and competent authority for IMA cases Krishna Udupa filed a complaint with the police on August 9. According to him, officials had stored the seized items in the basement of IMA gold office and sealed the building. Security guards were deployed.Between August 4 and August 8, someone gained entry into the building through a ventilator in the washroom. The culprit stole UPS batteries, wires, AC unit copper wires, and a D Link server, totally valued at ₹10,000.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 11
RISE 06:07 SET 18:43
RISE 01:37 SET 14:57

SATURDAY, AUG. 12
RISE 06:07 SET 18:42
RISE 02:27 SET 15:51

SUNDAY, AUG. 13
RISE 06:07 SET 18:42
RISE 03:21 SET 16:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	33	23
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spellof light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of General Public that my client has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from its absolute owner Smt. **B.Savithri W/o. Sri. M.T Mudla Giriappa,** aged about 80 years, residing at No. 7, Giri Krupa, 2nd Main Road, Sripuram, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020. Any persons having any right, claim or interest, whatsoever over the schedule property shall lodge their objections/ claims with relevant documents, to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication, after which our client will proceed with further transactions to purchase the schedule property and no claims will be entertained after the said period.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 7(Seven) formed in converted Survey No. 43/2, situated at Srigandhadakavalu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, as per Saneguruvanahalli Group Panchayath Serial No. 844/775, Property No. 714, 714/1, 714/2, 714/3 formed by Srigandhadakavalu Vasathirahithara Sangha, which now comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No. 129, measuring East to West : 30-0 (Thirty) feet, North to South : 40-0 (Forty) feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq. feet and bounded on:

East by: Site No. 8
West by: Site No. 6
North by: Private property
South by: Road
Bangalore
Date: 11-08-2023

P.Mahalinga Bhat and Srividya P.M, Advocates,
TF-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment,# 2386, Pipeline Road, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy layout, Blore-78
Mob: 9341215791/ 9481806159

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, No-2 Latur
Ph No.02382-257270 website : www.mahapwd.gov.in
Email ID : latur2.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-Tender B-1 Notice No.LTR-2/04/2023-24 (online)

Online **B-1** tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, No 2 Latur from the eligible contractors. Tender Documents download from Web site of http://mahatenders.gov.in. Right to accept or reject tenders is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division 2, Latur.

Note:-
1. Details of Tender Documents Will be available on website **http://mahapwd.gov.in**, **http://mahatenders.gov.in**
2. Contractors are mandated to get enrolled on http://mahatenders.gov.in
3. For details contact - 24X7 Help Desk Toll Free No. 1800 3070 2232 Mobile No. +9178781 07985/86, +917878007972/73 Email: eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com, cppp-support@nic.in
4. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof.
5. We are not responsible for any problem crop up during the Online E- tender process.
6. Above Tender Notice is also available on Website of http://mahapwd.gov.in,

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P. W.Division No. 2 Latur

DGIPR/2023-2024/2759

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, BENGALURU

E-Tender Notice No. TWS-RRB_03_2023-24 **Date: 04.08.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer, Railway Electrification, 2nd Floor, KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station, Bengaluru – 560023, invited e-bids at website **https://ireps.gov.in** (CORE – SBC – S AND T) for the under mentioned work from the tenderers fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria.

Name of the work: Trenching & Laying of underground Signalling cables/ Power cable, Casting of foundations, Supply of certain equipment/ Materials, Erection of Apparatus cases & fixing of equipment, wiring, testing & commissioning in connection with provision of Tower Wagon Siding at Birur Jn. Station involving alteration in existing EI (Make: Hitachi Microlok-II) in Chikbanavar (excl.) - Hubballi Jn. (excl.) section (Group: 259) of Mysuru Division in South Western Railway.

Estimated Cost	E.M.D.	Cost of Tender Paper
₹ 63,09,956.63/-	₹ 1,26,200/-	NIL
Completion period of work	**Tender closing date and time**	
06 (Six) Months	28.08.2023 15.00 Hrs	

No manual offers, either by person or post will be accepted, against this e-tender even if the offer is submitted on firms' letter head and received in time. All such offers will be considered invalid and shall be summarily rejected. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available on the website **http://ireps.gov.in** The bidders must have Class- III digital signature certificate and required to be registered on IREPS portal. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded in the website of IREPS and instructions there on to be followed for e - bidding for the above mentioned e - tender. The prospective bidders are advised to revisit the website seven days before the date of closing of the tender for any changes/corrigendum related to this tender.

No. PR/136/2023
R.D. Adv

Dy. Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer
Railway Electrification, Bengaluru

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that my Clients i.e. **Sri. K.C. SHASHIKANTH,** S/o. Sri. K.C. Chandrashekar, Aged about 57 Years, R/at No. 42252, Prestige Falcon City, Konanakunte Cross, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560062. is the absolute owner of **Site No.414,** Katha No.104, House List No.305, situated at **Mylasandra, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring **East to West: 40'.0" Feet and North to South: 60'.0" Feet, total 2400 Square Feet,** the property herein and hereinafter referred to as the **"Item No.1 of Schedule Property".**

Likewise, SMT. L. GANGADEVI W/o. Late T.R. Radhakrishnan, Aged about 68 years, **SRI. R. GOPIKRISHNA,** S/o. Late. T.R. Radhakrishnan, Aged about 44 years, both are residing at No. 3, 1st Floor, 100 Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560008 are the absolute owners of **Site No.412,** Katha No.104, House List No.307/287, **situated at Mylasandra, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 50'.0"+64'.6"/2 Feet and North to South: 62'.0"+60/2 Feet, total 3495 Square Feet,** the property herein and hereinafter referred to as the **"Item No.2 of Schedule Property"**

Further inform to the public that, there is some interference from one Smt. Lalithamma and her children in respect of the Item No.1 & 2 of Schedule Property, hence, both of my clients have filed **Permanent Injunction Suit in O.S.No.3742/2023 & OS No. 3743/2023** respectively against Smt. Lalithamma and her children before the XXXVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-38), said suits are still pending.

Therefore, my clients are absolute owners of their respective Schedule Property as stated above and they have absolute rights, title or interest and exclusive possession of the same. In view of above, hereby inform to the General Public that, **no person/s shall not deal any types of transactions in respect of the Item No.1 & 2 of Schedule Property, if any person/s do or create any sale or encumbrances over the Item No.1 & 2 of schedule property, my clients would not responsible for the same and they may faces future legal consequences for the same.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No.1: All that piece of parcel of the converted property bearing SITE NO.414, Katha No.104, House List No.305, situated at Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, with one Square A.C.C. house measuring; East to West: 40'.0" Feet, North to South : 60'.0" Feet, Total measuring : 2400 Square Feet and and bounded on; **East by :** Site No.413, **West by :** Site No.415, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Site No.408.

ITEM NO. 2: All that piece of parcel of the converted property bearing Site No.412, Katha No.104, House List No.307/287, situated at Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, with one Square A.C.C. house measuring; East to West : 50'.0"+64'.6"/2 Feet, North to South : 62'.0"+60.0"/2 Feet, Total measuring :3495 Square Feet and bounded on; **East by :** Road, **West by:** Site No.413, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.410 & 411.

Sri. B.E. SHREEDHAR, Advocate
15, 1st Floor, HAL Building,
1st Cross, C.K.C Garden, near HCG Hospital, K.H. Road, Bengaluru – 560027.
Mobile: 9964125501
E-mail: sriramadvo@gmail.com

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-Tender Notice
e-procurement tender
National Competitive Bidding
E-Tender No: CMRL/CON/C4-DPT-01-BW-01/2023

CMRL invites digitally signed e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) under Single Stage Two Envelope with initial filter (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

E-Tender No: CMRL/CON/C4-DPT-01-BW-01/2023: "Supplying, Fabricating And Erecting of Structural Steel Truss Including Roof Sheeting And RCC Works (Column & Roof Beam) For Stabling Bay Shed (Part-A) At Poonamallee Depot".

For further details, please visit :
For NIT : **www.chennaimetrorail.org**
For Downloading Bid Documents : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

DIPR/4448/Tender/2023

Sd/-
Additional General Manager (Civil/Depot)

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்".

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी- ४११०१८

यांत्रिकी विभाग
ई – टेंडरींग

ई–निविदा सुचना क्र. १२/२०२३–२४

पिं. चिं. मनपाचे अधिकारी व विभाग यांचे कामकाजाकरीता वाहने भाडेतत्वावर पुरवठा करणेकामी एजन्सी निश्चित करणे कामी निविदा मागविणेत येत असून इच्छुक ठेकेदारांनी प्रपत्र अ प्रमाणे निविदा दर सादर करावे.

अ. क्र.	कामाचा तपशील	निविदा र. रु.	बयाणा र. रु. ०५. %	अनामत र. रु. ५%	कामाचा कालावधी	निविदा फॉर्म फी परत न मिळणारी
१)	पिं. चिं. मनपाचे अधिकारी व विभाग यांचे कामकाजाकरीता वाहने भाडेतत्वावर पुरवठा करणेकामी एजन्सी निश्चित करणे.	७,६०,००,०००/-	३,८०,०००/-	३८,००,०००/-	१२ महिने	३३,००६/-

निविदेचे वेळापत्रक

१.	ई निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी	दि. १४/०८/२०२३ ते दि. २८/०८/२०२३
२.	निविदा स्विकृती अंतिम दिनांक व वेळ	दि. २८/०८/२०२३ दुपारी ३.०० वा. पर्यंत
३.	निविदा पूर्व बैठक दिनांक व वेळ स्थळ	दि. १७/०८/२०२३ दुपारी ३.०० वा. पर्यंत सह शहर अभियंता (वि) १ यांचे कार्यालय, पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका मुख्य प्रशासकीय इमारत
४.	निविदा उघडणेचा दिनांक	दि. ३१/०८/२०२३

कोणतेही कारण न देता निविदा पुर्णत: किंवा अंशत: मंजूर अथवा नामंजूर करणेचा अधिकार मा. आयुक्त यांनी स्वत:कडे राखून ठेवला आहे. निविदा संचाची विक्री http://mahatenders.gov.in संकेत स्थळावर ई– निविदा सुचनेत नमुद केलेल्या तारखेनुसार सुरू राहील. सविस्तर निविदा व निविदेबाबतची इतर माहिती http://mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे. सदरची ई – निविदा प्रणाली वापराबाबत काही तांत्रिक अडचण निर्माण झाल्यास NIC यांचेकडील ई–मेल support.eproc@nic.in अथवा help Desk Number –0120–4200462, 0120–4001005, 0120–6277787 या दुरध्वनीवरती संपर्क साधावा.

सही/–
(बाबासाहेब यशवंत गलबले)
सह शहर अभियंता (वि)१
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका
पिंपरी–१८

जाहीरात क्रंमाक– २३३
जा.क्र.यांत्रिकी/३/कावि/३५१/२०२३
दिनांक–१०/०८/२०२३

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that my Clients i.e. **Mr. SRINIVAS .K.N,** 47 years, S/o. Mr. Narayanappa, and **Mrs. J. SHRUTHI,** 40 years, W/o. Mr. Srinivas. K.N, both are residing at No. 474, 16th Cross, 6th Main, BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagara, Bengaluru-560079, are intent to purchase the residential bearing **Property No. 22/A, PID No. 18-1-22/A,** Situated at No. 22/A, Vanasuma, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, 1st 'H' Cross, Saneguruvanahalli, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079, measuring East to West: Northern Side: 100.5 Feet and Southern Side: 100.5 Feet and North to South: Eastern Side: 48-0 Feet and Western Side: 50-0 Feet, in all measuring 5000 Square Feet, **consists of Ground and 1st Floor House Building therein,** the descriptions of the property herein and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property"** from it's owners **Mr. BHARATH. P & Mr. VISHWAMURTHY PHALANETRA.**

This is further inform to the Public that, if any person having any claim, objections, or interest over the Schedule Property, they may send their objections /claims to the below mentioned address within **7 days** along with supporting documents. Otherwise, my client would be complete the sale transaction with Mr. Bharath .P & Mr. Vishwamurthy Phalentra in respect of the Schedule Property.

NOTE: If any objections/claims would come after 7 days from the date of this public notice cannot be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential bearing **Property No. 22/A, PID No. 18-1-22/A,** Situated at No. 22/A, Vanasuma, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, 1st 'H' Cross, Saneguruvanahalli, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru – 560079, measuring East to West: **Northern Side: 100.5 Feet and Southern Side: 100.5 Feet and North to South: Eastern Side: 48-0 Feet and Western Side: 50-0 Feet, in all measuring 5000 Square Feet, consists of Ground and 1st Floor House Building therein** and bounded on the: **East by:** Others Property, **West by:** 30 Feet Road, **North by:** Site No. 22 and **South by:** Site No. 22B, Presently House.

COUNSEL ADDRESS:
Sri B. E. SHREEDHAR, Advocate
Office at No.15, 1st Floor, HAL Building, 1st Cross, C.K.C Garden, K.H. Road, Near HCG Hospital, Bengaluru-560027.
Mobile: 9964125501.
Email: sriramadvo@gmail.com

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

Public Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('Rules').

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to City Union Bank Ltd. to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC-EOT-001-TRUST, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 05.09.2023 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of outstanding dues as under:

Rs.2,72,86,330/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Only) as on 08-08-2023 together with further interest with effect from 09-08-2023 at contractual rate till recovery and other costs, charges etc. due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers viz. Mr. A. Chinnasamy (Borrower) and Mrs. Fathima Mary (Co Borrower)

It is to be noted that besides above dues, there is an outstanding due amount of Rs.1,89,08,323.25/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Nine Lakhs Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three and paise Twenty Five Only) as on 08-08-2023 recoverable from Borrower (s) together with further interest with effect from 09-08-2023 at contractual rate till recovery of entire outstanding dues and other costs and charges, under OSL Loan Account Nos. 501812080040235, 501812080056561, 501812080053390 and 501812080047274 (Unsecured). Encore ARC reserves the right to adjust the surplus sale proceeds, if any, of mortgaged property towards aforesaid dues by exercising right of set off / general lien.

The description of the mortgaged immovable property, and the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Asset, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Increment in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1	A. Chinnaswamy & Fathima Mary	**Schedule "A" Property** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No. L-54, Present BBMP Katha No. 622/L-54, situated at Hosur – Sajapura Road Layout, HSR Layout in Sector – 6, Bangalore, presently comes under BBMP limits, measuring East to West 24.22 Meters, North to South 15.23 Meters in all measuring 368.87 Sq.Mtr and bounded on East : Site No. L-71, West : 40 feet Road, North : Site No. L-53. South: Site No. L-55. **Schedule "B" Property** 940 Sq.ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in the schedule A property. **Schedule "C" Property** Flat bearing no. F-1 in the first floor of the building known as "KOWNDINYA" having 3155 sq feet or super built up area consisting of 3 bed rooms, hall kitchen etc with two covered car parking space in the basement floor.	**2,28,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Only)**	**22,80,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)**	**1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakhs Only)**

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	**19/08/2023 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	**Before 3.00 PM on 04/09/2023**
Date & time of e-Auction	**05/09/2023 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below. Auction Website: https://bankeauctions.com**

In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.

Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-EOT – 001 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com

Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717, Mr B.M. Nagaraju, on mobile no. 89399 56230, and Mr. Sabari Sundar on mobile no. 7904918124 for any further information / query.

Date: 11.08.2023
Place: Bangalore

K.Nagendran
Authorised Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XXXVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE

P. & S. C. No. 399 / 2023 (CCH-36)

BETWEEN:

1. **Sri. Santosh Kumar Raju,** Son of Late Sri. Raju Sivaraman, Aged about 59 years, Residing at No. A 403, Raheja Residency, Koramangala, 3rd Block, Agara, Koramangala, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560034.

2. **Smt. E. P Nivedita,** Wife of Sri. Santosh Kumar Raju, Aged about 52 years, Residing at Flat No. A 403, Raheja Residency, Koramangala, 3rd Block, Agara, Koramangala, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560034. **...Petitioners**

AND : Nil ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made petition to this court under Section 276 and other provisions of Part X of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for the grant of Probate in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Late Smt. Bala Raju, mother of the 1st Petitioner and mother-in-law of the 2nd Petitioner herein, who expired on 04.04.2022.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 14.09.2023 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

Item No. 1 : Fixed Deposits and Savings Bank Account details of Late Smt. Bala Raju in the State Bank of India, Indira Nagar Branch:

i. Deposit amount of Rs. 1000000 in Account bearing No. 34031830896 (FD)
ii. Deposit amount of Rs. 1000000 in Account bearing No. 34031830874 (FD)
iii. Deposit amount of Rs. 500000 in Account bearing No. 38521708849 (FD)
iv. Deposit amount of Rs. 500000 in Account bearing No. 34031829224 (FD)
v. Balance Amount of Rs. 293670.88 as on 04.07.2023 in SB Account bearing No. 30864933713

Item No. 2 : Fixed Deposit and Savings Bank account details of Late Smt. Bala Raju in ICICI Bank, Indira Nagar Indira Nagar Branch:

i. Deposit amount of Rs. 1744089 in Account bearing No. 413449198 (FD)
ii. Balance Amount of Rs. 95294.26 as on 04.07.2023 in SB Account bearing No. 401584765

Item No. 3 : Details of Late Smt. Bala Raju's Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme-2020-21, Government of India:

i. Registered Holding of 100 units on an initial investment of Rs. 5,33,400/- with interest at the rate of 2.5% per annum (Certificate No. SGB000001047419428-1047419527)
ii. Registered Holding of 500 units on an initial investment of Rs. 26,67,000/- with interest at the rate of 2.5% per annum (Certificate No. SGB000001047419933-1047420432)

Item No. 4: Details of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) 'Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana' (Insurance Policy) of Late Smt. Bala Raju:

Name of Pensioner : Smt. Bala Raju
Policy Number : 923003024
Commencement Date : 06.02.2004
Amount of Pension Instalment: Rs. 6000/-
Purchase Price: Rs. 2,64,675/-*
Nominee: Santosh Kumar Raju
*This amount has been claimed and LIC has refunded Rs. 2,42,976/- which has been put into an FD with ICICI bank (FD No. 00410528716)

Given under my hand & seal of the Court this 26th day of July 2023.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from the movie *Befikre*

Redefining Bollywood: introspection and the quest for authenticity

Bollywood is grappling with self-reflection, as iconic production houses and directors challenge conventional narratives, and question stereotypes in their recent releases; the industry navigates a delicate balance between genuine transformation and retaining its traditional essence

Anuj Kumar

Some of the releases in recent weeks suggest that mainstream Bollywood is in a self-reflective mood. Like the customary transformation scene in family dramas where the ageing generation gives in to the views of their kids after resisting change in the first half, Bollywood bigwigs seem eager to scrutinise the stereotypical tropes that once defined their point of view. They are questioning and scratching off entrenched patriarchy, casual everyday sexism, and gender and cultural biases that have blighted our society and cinema alike in the name of tradition and custom, but in the process they are losing out on the verve and lilt that Hindi film romance once possessed.

Perhaps propelled by the ripples that some of the content on OTT platforms has created or spurred by the will to challenge their legacy, marquee banners are indulging in introspection. It is reflected in Rajshri Productions' *Uunchai* in 2022, Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment's *Satyaprem Ki Katha* and *Bawaal* and Dharma Production's *JugJugg Jeeyo* and *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani (RARKPK)*. Even Anurag Kashyap who promised a parallel universe to mainstream fluff got caught in this game of catching up with the youth with *Almost Pyaar with DJ Mohabbat*. So did Luv Ranjan when he mounted *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar* earlier this year.

Veil of change

In *RARKPK*, Johar has even tossed a low-hanging metaphor – *swad wahi, soch nayi* (same flavour, new philosophy). The experiment requires courage to get over the obstacles of experience and ego but a closer scrutiny suggests that the change is only cosmetic and the new philosophy demands a newer way of putting across the message. At present, it is a case of neither here nor there as the subversion remains adsorbed on the surface. The noble intentions behind these films often feel contrived, as if the creators are chasing applause for their message, only to revert to the status quo for their trusted multiplex audience. This renders their efforts seem more pretentious than impactful.

The romantic build-up in the movie *RARKPK*, between a Punjabi 'heartthrob' and a journalist from an intellectual Bengali family lacks the intensity that could be overlooked by the stagy but progressive second half. Cinema like all art is about intent and gaze and here it feels like the film pauses to pontificate like a generic television soap. We are having a dialogue on male insensitivity towards women by taking Ranveer Singh to a lingerie shop. We are making the hero dance to "*Dola Re Dola*" to join his prospective father-in-law, a Kathak exponent.

The screenplay reads like a PowerPoint presentation against cancel culture and surprisingly, after all the fuss over making parents see the parallax in their world view, the girl makes peace with the father of the boy who comes across as a misogynist. Similarly, in *JugJugg Jeeyo*, the sexist attitude of the father played by Anil Kapoor goes unpunished. It is like pushing the envelope and then gingerly pulling it back lest it offend the audience who loved *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* for promoting make-up as a must for girls and the notion that short dresses attract unwanted male attention.

Essentially, in *Bawaal*, Varun Dhawan-Jahnvi Kapoor-starrer is bloated out of proportion perhaps to match the scale of the producer's image and the urge to reach out to an international audience. The film literally keeps requesting the audience to be open-minded to accept the bizarre idea of a couple learning to bury their differences when the teacher husband is schooled on the pain and sufferings of the Jews during the Second World War. Hindi cinema has sold even more bizarre concepts to the paying public in the past but in those films, the makers were not trying to be too clever by half.

Bawaal is not the only one in recent times that could not hold on to its one-trick show. Aanand L Rai's *Atrangi Re*, a quirky love triangle on mental health, also could not pass muster once the director showed his cards.

The premise of *Bawaal* could have worked if Varun was shown as a primary school teacher in the Uttar Pradesh village and the couple learnt from the sufferings of one of the episodes of the freedom movement. But, perhaps, the makers were keen on making a big splash. Director Nitesh Tiwari recently said that every film could be subjected to scrutiny when viewed through a magnifying glass. It is true but the details invariable come out when the director fails to hold suspension of disbelief even in the first viewing. Music plays an important role in the process but the big shots are borrowing from the past to sustain the love stories of today. Johar has to rework Madan Mohan's 1966 composition *Jhumka Gira Re* to hook the audience of today.

Originality is definitely in short supply and cheating is also a difficult art to master.

In mainstream Hindi films, the audience investment has more to do with how emotions are woven and expressed. Physical intimacy alone can't help you sail through as Aditya Chopra discovered with *Befikre*.

In *Bawaal*, while the lead actors fail to sell the premise, Manoj Pahwa is absolutely relatable as the father of the protagonist. Similarly in *RARKPK*, while the chemistry between Ranveer and Alia could not seep through the bling, Dharmendra and Shabana Azmi could not stir latent emotions and Jaya Bachchan looked out of place, Tota Roy Chowdhury could still find his way into our hearts amidst the shrill atmosphere and shallow writing.

Recently, a veteran popular cinema enthusiast told a journalist that the love stories of today don't have the *aaramdayak dard* (comfortable pain) that the cinema of yore used to provide. Take Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Abhimaan* or Basu Chatterjee's *Rajnigandha* for instance. The films haven't aged in 50 years. Their message is still relevant and the love story still provides goosebumps.

Screenwriters often say that society has changed and romance is no longer the same. But we have seen in *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* and *Satyaprem Ki Katha* that if set, cooked, and cast well, Hindi film romance could still conjure up magic that could help in papering over the cracks in the screenplay.

In the past, we have seen the likes of Prakash Mehra, Manmohan Desai, and Subhash Ghai fading away for they resisted change in their storytelling after a point. But it is also important to remember the popular fable where an ageing jackal accidentally falls into a vat of indigo dye while escaping an attack by wild dogs.

Drenched in a blue hue, he presents himself as a new creature and finds a new lease of life in the cut throat ways of the jungle. However, he could not resist the urge to howl for long and one day when a heavy downpour washes off his blue coat, he gets exposed.

Watching some of the recent works of our top-notch film producers and directors gives one the sense that pushed by the OTT challenge they are deliberately falling into the vat to wear a new coat but finding it hard to keep away from the howl that defines them. The moral of the story is that one should be true to oneself.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Indian GM D Gukesh recently overtook GM Viswanathan Anand to become India no. 1 and World no. 9 in the FIDE live ratings. Here's another quiz on chess prodigies

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Which Indian GM overtook GM Anand for a day by garnering 0.3 ELO more points than the latter on 15th March 2016? The very next day, GM Anand was back as India's no. 1.

QUESTION 2

In the list of Top 20 chess players among juniors (aged 20 and below), there are currently eight Indians, a pack led by D Gukesh, who is ranked No 2 among world juniors. The seventh Indian in the list is not even a Grandmaster as yet, as a Candidate Master, the player gained 151 ELO points in the last tournament, and a whopping 600 points in the last two months. Name him.

QUESTION 3

Currently five Indian players (Gukesh, Anand, Vidit Gujrathi, R Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi) have ELO ratings above 2700 (the Super GM) mark. Name the two other Indians who also managed to cross the 2700 mark in their careers.

QUESTION 4

Name the young chess GM (of Indian origin) who holds the record of becoming a GM at the youngest age, beating the previous mark set by Russian GM Sergei Karjakin. Which country does he represent?

QUESTION 5

Before Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa held the mark for being the youngest to become GMs in India, the record was held up by a New Delhi-born chess prodigy who later achieved a peak rating of 2671, before retiring from chess and becoming a computer science researcher. Name him.

Visual Question: Long before the current crop of Indian GMs and even Viswanathan Anand were making their marks, this person was the first Indian to achieve something. Name him and his achievement

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This king initiated the construction of the Louvre Palace. **Ans: King Philip II and the Seine**
2. In 1966, the Louvre chose to showcase which masterpiece in the Salle des États, the largest room in the palace. **Ans: Mona Lisa**
3. Which work by Veronese is the biggest painting in the Louvre and which work is displayed opposite it? Ans: The Wedding Feast at Cana and Mona Lisa
4. In this Asian location, there is an official Louvre museum. **Ans: Abu Dhabi**
5. The wedding of Napoleon and Marie Louise of Austria was held in one of the most famous rooms at the Louvre. Name the stately location. **Ans: Salon Carré**
6. Name the genius, whose work 'Slaves' are the highlight of a gallery named after him. **Ans: Michelangelo**
7. What magnificent work, can one see at the top of the fantastic Daru staircase in the Denon wing, Level 1? **Ans: The Winged Victory of Samothrace**
Visual: Name the architect. **Ans: I.M. Pei**
Early Birds: Shk Jg | Suchita Sharma | Sunil Kannada | Animesh Mohan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. P. Abdui Aziz, JNTU College of Engineering, Kakinada, wants to know the meaning of 'vegan' and 'yomp'."

" 'Vegan' is a contraction of 'vegetarian'. 'Vegans' are no longer considered odd. People have come to accept that vegan diet is healthy. The V in the word is pronounced like the 'ee' in 'feel', some pronounce it like the 'a' in 'make', 'naked'. The 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'; 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'get'. 'Yomp' means 'to march laboriously, especially while carrying heavy luggage'. As there was a bus strike, we had to yomp the distance. 'Yomp' rhymes with 'pomp'."

"Sir, Ms. S. Lakshmi, 72C, Pocket A, DDA (MIG) Flats, Vikas Puri Extension, New Delhi, wants to know whether the lengthy piece of cloth stitched to the edge of saree is 'falls' or 'false'."

"It is 'falls'. 'Fall' is a hanging attachment to a garment. It is generally used in the plural''.

"Sir, Mr. Ameet Hingaroni, 21, Raghupathy Layout, Saibaba Colony, Coimbatore, wants to know the difference between 'puzzle' and 'riddle'.''

"Both refer to something that 'baffles and perplexes and challenges one's power to solve it'. But a riddle is a special kind of puzzle. It is full of paradoxical or contradictory statements. Here is a riddle. Can a leopard change its spots? Your immediate response would be 'No'. But it can; it can change from one spot to another!"

"Sir, Mr. N. Doraiswamy, AP 177, 10 Street, Second Sector, K.K. Nagar. Madras, wants to know the difference between 'capacity' and 'capability'."

" 'Capacity' literally means 'the quality of being able to contain or receive'. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 1000. This means that it can take 1000 people. 'The bus was packed to capacity' means that the bus was full. When the word is used with human beings, it generally refers to their mental or moral qualities; it may also refer to their attitude. 'Capacity' is potential rather than actual ability. He is a man of great capacity, which means that he is a person who can handle any situation or problem ably. His capacity for hard work is unbelievable. Her capacity for tears is out of the ordinary.
'Capability' meant 'capacity' once. Even now, in certain contexts, it means 'capacity'. 'Capability' or 'capabilities' generally refers to your ability to do a particular kind of work. Therefore it means a special kind of competence. The doctor will test the capability of the eye to see distant objects. His capability as a lawyer is unquestionable. 'Nuclear capability' means the capacity to wage a nuclear war. When it is used in the plural, it means 'qualities, features, etc. that can be used or developed'. 'This area has great capabilities' means that this area has potential for great development. In the eighteenth century, there was a landscape gardener by name, Lancelot Brown. He was patronised by the rich. He was nicknamed 'Capability Brown' from his habit of tailing his customers that their land held great capabilities".

Published in The Hindu on December 27, 1988

Word of the day

Filibuster: a tactic for delaying or obstructing legislation by making long speeches

Synonyms: stonewall, blocking, hindrance

Usage:
Opponents of the bill threatened to filibuster its final stages.

Pronunciation:
bit.ly/filibusterpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fílɪbəsdə/

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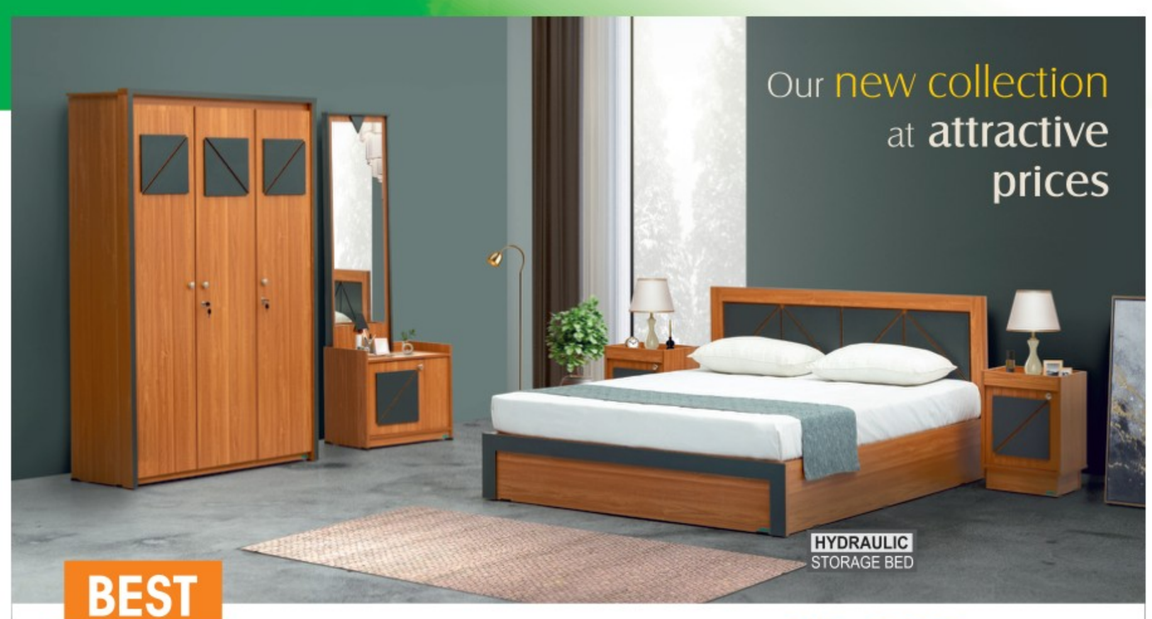

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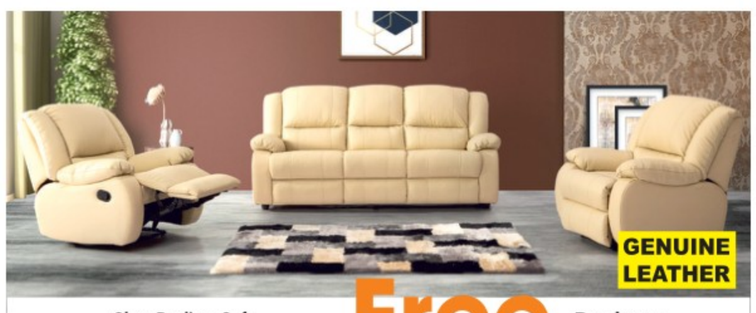

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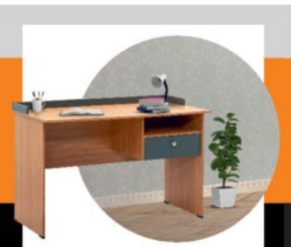

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SIT probe ordered to deliver justice to Kempanna: DKS

Contractors who have taken up BBMP projects have stopped ongoing work and maintenance, demanding clearance of bills that have been pending for 26 months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday that the probe into projects executed in the past three years by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), was ordered based on the allegations by D. Kempanna, president of Karnataka State Contractors' Association.

Mr. Shivakumar, talking to presspersons at his residence, said, "As Mr. Kempanna had filed a complaint about corruption, the probe was ordered to provide justice to him." The government has asked four special investigation teams to submit the reports in 30 days.

D.K. Shivakumar

Contractors under debt

The contractors who have taken up BBMP projects have stopped ongoing work and maintenance, demanding clearance of bills pending for 26 months. The contractors say they are reeling under debt due to non-payment of bills. The contractors allege that for the 40% commission demanded during the BJP regime, they were being targeted by the Congress government that came to power banking on their allegations.

Mr. Kempanna in an interview *The Hindu* said at present, corruption is not the grouse of the contractors but clearing of pending bills is. This impasse between contractors and the government has now cost development in the city. According to sources in the BBMP, the officials are directed to provide each file pertaining to projects to SITs. The officials are busy arranging the files, while the Urban Development Department (UDD) is yet to assign an office for these teams.

The sources also alleged that it is hard for any team to complete the probe and submit the reports in 30 days, and the government may exploit the SITs to target select contractors who favour the BJP.

K.T. Manjunath, president of BBMP Contractors' Association, said he met leaders of the Opposition BJP along with others.

"We met MLA R. Ashok and six others, and they promised to put pressure on the government to release the funds. We are not associated with any party, and we are only seeking support from everyone for our fight."

Bommai alleges BBMP contractors' union has complained to Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that BBMP contractors had complained to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that those in his party's government in Karnataka were demanding 65% commission for clearing their pending bills, BJP leader and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday demanded that Mr. Gandhi intervene and ensure justice if he is against corruption.

The allegation came even as K.T. Manjunath, president, BBMP Working Contractors' Association, said they had neither complained nor posted on X asking Mr. Gandhi regarding delay in payment of pending bills in the civic body, from the Association. "We are neither aware nor responsible if some individual contractor has done so," he said.

However, sticking to the allegation, Mr. Bommai told a press conference in Bengaluru after hearing the grievances of the BBMP Contractors' Association who submitted a memorandum to him about pending bills, that Mr. Gandhi should intervene in the matter within 24 hours if had zero tolerance for corruption.

Mr. Bommai took exception to the silence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with respect to the contractors getting upset over non-payment of their pending bills and maintained that such a silence was being interpreted as endorsing the alleged demand for bribe.

He also wondered why the transfer notifications of government employees were being frequently modified by the Chief Minister's office.

Training his guns on Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, he remarked that Mr. Shivakumar had become a "super chief minister" in the Congress government.

Former Cong. councillor's son found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old son of a former BBMP councillor was allegedly found dead at his house in Attiguppe in Chandra Layout on Wednesday.

The opposition BJP members started sharing the news linking it to the ongoing contractors' issue with the alleged suicide.

However, the family members clarified that it had nothing to do with the ongoing issue nor was he a contractor.

The deceased Goutham, younger son of K. Doddanna, was found dead in his room. The incident came to light when the family members tried to call him for lunch but there was no response. They finally broke open the door to find him dead, said the police.

No connection

The family members said that Goutham was depressed for some days and not talking to his family members. The uncle of the deceased told the media that it had no connection with the contractors' issue.

"Please do not disturb the family by creating a controversy. The BJP is trying to rake up a controversy and we urge them to leave us alone," he said.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help)

From Page One

Cyber security policy gets Cabinet nod

The policy has been introduced as Karnataka is among the States with the highest level of Internet penetration in the country. Cyber security is of utmost concern to the IT and start-up industry that is a major source of employment and investment.

The policy focuses on enhancing the general level of cyber security across all sectors, the Minister said.

Shakti scheme: No smart cards, Karnataka RTCs to opt for passes

The Minister has instructed officials across all four RTCs to utilise the existing system for pass printing and issuance. "During the meeting, we conceptualised introducing Shakti passes that won't function as smart cards, but rather resemble regular bus passes. Since we already have a system to issue the passes, we will make use of it. These passes will be distributed at bus stands and depots on the spot once we receive a valid identity card from the beneficiary," Mr. Reddy said.

Earlier, the government had said that to avail themselves of Shakti , women must apply on the official portal of the scheme by providing a valid ID card as proof of identity. Subsequently, RTCs were slated to dispense Shakti smart cards, employing a 'tap-and-travel' technology approach. This innovative method entails tapping the smart cards on conductors' ticketing machines.

Amid these developments, the commencement of registration for Shakti smart cards has been delayed due to the ongoing registrations for the Gruha Jyothi and Gruha Lakshmi schemes. Mr. Reddy said, "Given that the registration for the Gruha Jyothi and Gruha Lakshmi schemes is currently under way, we plan to commence the Shakti pass distribution once these processes are concluded. Additionally, RTCs require some time for preparation."

Experts, citizens slam State govt. for halting projects in city

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Karnataka government's reluctance to grant permission to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to float new tenders and clear bills of contractors has drawn flak from citizens and urban experts who say that the city will suffer.

They argued that having halted every project in Bengaluru, except those run by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Tghe government should stop collecting taxes from residents for its inability to deliver. "Will BBMP stop collecting taxes for not carrying out any developmental works," asked R. K. Mishra, a noted urban expert.

The government has ordered four special investigation teams (SIT), headed by IAS officials, to probe projects executed in the last three years and has sought a report in 30 days.

"This step by the government appears to be strategy to armtwist contractors. There are other agencies, like Lokayukta and CID, which are fully capable of carrying out a probe. While State can form an SIT to investigate and unearth corruption, it is also duty-bound to execute development works pivotal to the everyday life of citizens," said Mr. Mishra.

Referring to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Mr. Mishra said, "Although he is a seasoned politician, with regard to the city's development, he appears to be not acting fast. The new government has not started work on a high-density corridor though a tender was called about nine months ago. All new projects have been stopped, bringing development work to a standstill."

Another expert, who did not wished to be named, said halting of proejcts and pending payments will have a bearing on the civic elections. "The people of Bengaluru want to see development activities on the ground, and not mere talk about Brand Bengaluru. Over ₹2,500 crore is due to contractors. If the government directs BBMP to pay, it has to empty its coffers, further pushing BBMP into a corner. Mr. Shivakumar has to work towards resuming work instead of halting them, while he can take corrupt officials to task," said the expert.

Sandeep Anirudhan, convenor, Namma Whitefield said while corruption has to be uprooted, forming an SIT is simply 'meddling' with the BBMP. "The government has to work towards forming a master plan, set up a planning authority, and integrate services to implement the 74th amendment to the Constitution. If Mr. Shivakumar focuses on this, the rest will fall in line. The city should be allowed to take care of its own development. The State Government should not interfere in affairs of the civic body," he said.

Parts of six Bescom transformers stolen from Devanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Parts of the six Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) transformers installed in residential layouts in Devanahalli have been stolen .

Bescom Engineer, Muniraju, filed a complaint with the police on Monday.

According to him the miscreants pulled down the transformers and damaged them to remove the winding core and oil from the transformers.

The incident came to light when linemen, Kalindra and Umesh were on rounds and recovered the damaged transformers, and alerted Muniraju.

The transformers are 100 and 250 KV capacities installed to supply power to residential layouts, he said. Since the transformers are heavy to carry, they dumped the structure and took away the expensive parts, he said.

Based on the complaint, the police have taken up a case and are keeping track of the junk shops to track down the accused.

'City overly dependent on Cauvery water, time to look for alternatives'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city is overly dependent on water from the Cauvery river and it was high time it looked for other alternatives, said K.N. Rajiv, Nodal officer (Jala Suraksha Bengaluru) and Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

He stressed on the need for Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) and conserving water.

He was speaking at an event where members of the public gave suggestions on water security as part of the Brand Bengaluru campaign in the city on Thursday.

"Over 9000 suggestions have come online as well," Mr. Rajiv said.

Many water conservation activists and residents who participated in the event suggested recharge of underground water table through recharge wells and regulations to prevent over exploitation of water table, including doubling penalty on those digging illegal borewells, apart from making RWH a norm in all buildings.

Residents also batted for better Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) infrastructure in the city, including making it mandatory at all apartments and moving towards more decentralised STP infrastructure. This will provide treated water to be reused, thereby conserving water, and at the same time ensure untreated sewage is not let into Storm Water Drains (SWDs) and lakes, they said.

Mr. Rajiv said that these suggestions along with the over 9000 suggestions that have come online, would be compiled and submitted to the government.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, SUMUKH M J S/o JAYAKUMAR M R residing at #MIG–4, Kuvempu nagar, 1st Stage, Mandya District, Karnataka state – 571401. My mother's correct name is VIJAYAKUMARI M K, this name is entered in my mother's Aadhar card. But in my school records my mother's name is entered incorrectly as VIJAY KUMARI M K instead of VIJAYAKUMARI M K. vide affidavit dated on 08/08/2023 before Notary M. ShivaShankarSwamy, Mandya.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRA Avula, R/at #757, 2nd Floor, 13th A Cross, 22nd Main Road, J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, have changed the name of my minor son from Danshit Avula to Dhanshit Avula vide affidavit dated: 10/08/2023 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

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NOTIFICATION
E-Tenders are invited (https:/ /etenders.kerala.gov.in)for
1.THE DESIGN, SUPPLY, FABRICATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 50000 L RAW WATER STORAGE SS TANK (Tender ID: 2023_TSC_591548_1),
2.THE DESIGN, SUPPLY AND FABRICATION OF FOUNDATION PLATFORM AND MODIFICATION OF SS OVERHEAD TANK (Tender ID:2023_TSC_591564_1)
3.FOR FIRE & SAFETY RCC WATER TANK (SURFACE TANK)-HAVING CAPACITY 1.5 LAKH LITRE (Tender ID:2023_TSC_591590_1).
The last date of submission of e-tender on 14.08.2023 at 11.00 AM. Contact Office/Website.
Thiruvalla 01.08.2023 (sd) GM

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, P SANKARI, aged about 27 years, W/o Santhosh M V, R/a No.003/1, Udupi Heights, 1st Phase Main Road, Near Siddaganga School, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my name to Sharon Ruth vide affidavit dt. 09/08/2023 before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Vatakara
OP (MV) 1033/2021
Adithyan *: Petitioner*
Siddiq Basha & Others *: Respondents*
Siddiq Basha, Aged 41 years, S/o.Majbool, No.7, RC Complex, S.G.Muttroad, Bangalore, Kodavoor Village, Malpe PO, Udupi (Taluk), Karnataka – 576108
: Respondent No.1
That the above case is posted to 02.09.2023 for the appearance of respondent No.1 otherwise he will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court.
(Sd/-) A. Hareesh
Advocate for Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF THE VIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-15)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 742 OF 2021
Hg. 23/09/2023
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 4/10, 1st Floor Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560068 And represented by its POA Holder and collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G S/o. Gurumallappa, Age: 45 Years ...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Mr. Jaikumar S
...DEFENDANT
To,
Defendant :
Mr. Jaikumar S
aged about 27 years,
Son of Saibabu,
R/at. No. 58 2nd Floor 2nd Cross, Hosalli Road, Gollrahatti Bangalore-560091.
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 and 2 of the Civil procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 6,88,184/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand One Eighty Four Only)** as on together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on 23/09/2023 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given Under my hand and seal of the Court this **2nd** day of **August, 2023.**
By the order of the court
Assistant Registrar
City Civil court Bangalore.
Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates, No. 4(10/2),
West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S. No.25426/2023
BETWEEN:
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G,
Aged about 45 years
S/o Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND:
1. Mr. Prakash Shetty
S/o Mr. Kaju Betty Babu Shetty Aged about 47 Years
Bundl Technologies Pvt. Ltd,
1 BC Knowledge Park
Tower D 9th Floor
Bangalore - 560029
...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,29,822.52/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two and Paisa Fifty Two Only)** apart from future interest of 24% in **O.S. No. 25426/2023** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 75, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **11th** day of **September, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given my hand and seal of the Court this **07th** day of **August, 2023.**
By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayohall
BENGALURU-560 001
FX & Co.
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public at Large that I V.L.Vasudevan was born on 16.05.1978 and at the time of my birth I was known by the name Vasudevan V. I had during the year 2004 I had sworn an affidavit whereby I had changed my name from Vasudevan V to Vasudevan V.L. by prefixing the initial of my mother's name Lakshmi as initial along with my father's name. I had carried out the necessary newspaper advertisement about the change in my name and had intimated all the government authorities about my change of name pursuant to which all the government-issued identity proofs shows my new name including my passport. The earlier affidavit sworn by me in connection with my change of name and the newspaper advertisement caused to be issued during the year 2004 had been submitted to passport office for change of name and I do not hold a copy. By this public notice I am reconfirming that both Vasudevan V and Vasudevan VL are one and the same.
I have once again sworn an affidavit dt 25th July 2023 before Notary Public Sri.C.Srinivasa confirming the change of name by way of affidavit sworn in during the year 2004.
Place : Bangalore
Date : 10-08-2023
VASUDEVAN VL
S/o.Vijayaraghavan Venkatraghavan, 310, 18th Main, Rainbow Residency
Sarjapur Road, Junnasandra, Bangalore 560 035

झारखण्ड सरकार
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2023-2024

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Hemant Soren
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Shri Alamgir Alam
Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development Department, RDD(Special Division) and Panchayati Raj

Shri Satyanand Bhokta
Hon'ble Minister, Labour, Employment, Training & Skill Development

Shri Champai Soren
Hon'ble Minister, Department of ST, SC & Backward Class Welfare

Shri Hafizul Hasan
Hon'ble Minister, Minority Welfare, Tourism, Art & Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs

Date: 11th August 2023, 3:00pm onwards

Place: Project Building Auditorium, Ranchi

PR NO-304416 IPRD(23-24) D

Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand

A BG-BGE

Mekedatu padayatra: 9 cases against CM, Dy. CM, and others withdrawn

The earlier BJP government had slapped police cases against the Congress leaders for violating COVID-19 protocols

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday withdrew nine police cases registered against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh, and other Congress leaders for violating COVID-19 protocols while undertaking a padayatra on January 9, 2022.

The padayatra was taken out seeking early implementation of the Mekedatu drinking water project.

The previous Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government had slapped cases against the leaders for launching the padayatra from Sangama in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district, about 100 km from Bengaluru. Hundreds of leaders, including Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Siddaramaiah, and Congress chief M. Mallikarjun Kharge had taken part in it.

A padayatra was taken out by Congress leaders seeking early implementation of the Mekedatu drinking water project in January last year.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil briefed on the decisions taken at a Cabinet meeting and said that the Ijoor police, under Ramanagara district, had filed cases against the Congress leaders.

The nearly 170-km padayatra under the banner 'Our water, our right' passed through over a dozen Assembly constituencies before culminating at Basavanagudi here.

Official dismissed

In another decision, the State Cabinet decided to dismiss from service H.M. Nagesh, Assistant Commissioner, Commercial Tax Department. He was punished with a five-year imprisonment for financial irregularity.

Compulsory retirement

It also decided to grant compulsory retirement for Usha Kadaramandalagi, gynaecologist, Ramanagara district hospital, who was trapped by the Lokayukta while accepting a bribe.

Compulsory retirement was also ordered for S.D. Nagamani, doctor, at C.V. Raman General Hospital, following traps laid by the Lokayukta while accepting a bribe at Chitradurga district government hospital.

Allocations made

The Cabinet decided to allocate ₹187 crore to Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences for taking up repair works. The allocation was increased from the earlier ₹140 crore to ₹187 crore.

The Cabinet approved the release of ₹47.41 crore for installation of CT scans at five district hospitals and MRI scan machines at 15 district hospitals.

District hospitals of Mysuru, Chitradurga, C.V. Raman General Hospital at Indiranagar in Bengaluru, Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru, and K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru will get CT scan equipment. The project will be implemented on PPP model, Mr. Patil said.

Sunflower oil to replace palm oil in anganwadi centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has decided to switch over from palm oil to sunflower oil to prepare nutritious food at anganwadi centres run under ICDS across Karnataka.

A sum of ₹66.04 crore had been approved for procurement of sunflower oil for anganwadi centres in the State, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil told pressmen after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

The decision was taken following the availability of sunflower oil in the State as large number of farmers grow sunflower. Palm oil used to be imported from other States and countries. The switch will cost an additional ₹9.9 crore, he said.

Mr. Patil said the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Aerospace and Defence has come into operation with the investment of Dassault Systems, who is the technology partner, with the involvement and investment of IT/BT and S&T Departments of the State government, and Visvesvaraya Technological University regional centre, Bengaluru. The Cabinet has cleared the investment of ₹250 crore by Dassault Systems, VTU ₹4.29 crore, and State government departments ₹33.46 crore.

The Cabinet has changed the name of the Coastal Development Authority of Karnataka to Coastal Area Development for inclusion of taluks of Uttara Kannada and Chikkamagaluru, which are part of Malnad Karnataka.

Tracking bus movement

To track movement of KSRTC buses and improve efficiency of services, the Cabinet approved a ₹30.7 crore-vehicle tracking system. It aims to track movement of buses, waiting time for passengers, efficiency of services, Mr. Patil said.

Cabinet panel to study levy of tax on illegal buildings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cabinet decided to set up its panel to study levy of property tax on illegal buildings and disputed lands in the limits of city corporations, municipal councils, and town panchayats on the lines of the provisions in BBMP Act, 2020.

Section 144 of BBMP Act, 2020, allows authorities to levy tax on buildings and land or both, including a building constructed in violation of the provisions of building bylaw or in an unauthorised layout or from a building occupied without issuance of occupancy in BBMP limits. The panel will study the possibility of extension of provisions of BBMP Act to other corporations and CMCs and TMCs to allow authorities to levy property tax on illegal buildings, Mr. Patil said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been authorised to constitute the panel, he said.

Leader of the Opposition to be appointed after August 15, says Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leader and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the BJP Central leadership would take up the process of appointment of Leader of Opposition for the Karnataka Assembly after August 15.

Mr. Bommai told media persons in Bengaluru that he was informed of this by the party Central leaders whom he met during his recent visit to Delhi.

"I had been to Delhi to meet the party MPs from Karnataka during the Parliament session. On this occasion, I also met Central leaders Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda and held consultations with them on the preparations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, failures of the Congress government in the State, and the need to take up a public campaign against the Congress government," he said.

Mr. Bommai said the party State unit would soon take up a public campaign against the alleged anti-people policies of the Congress government.

FCI asks wheat flour mills to participate in e-auction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has urged small and medium wheat flour mill operators to buy wheat from its godowns through e-auction to avail the benefit of price difference.

Bhupendra Singh Bhati, GM, FCI, Karnataka, said: "Reserve price of wheat has been fixed at ₹2,150 per quintal for Fair and Average Quality, and ₹2,125 per quintal for Under Relaxed Specifications variety, for pan-India up to December 31, 2023." Wheat sold through FCI is of fine quality, but much cheaper than the wholesale market. As on July 31, FCI godowns in the State had wheat stock of 62,880.138 tonnes.

The minimum quantity a mill operator can bid is 10 tonnes, and the maximum is 100 tonnes. "Participants should register on mjunction to be able to participate in the auction every Wednesday," he added. Only 49 wheat mills in Karnataka are currently registered on mjunction.

HC tells X Corp to deposit ₹25 lakh during pendency of appeal in 'blocking order' dispute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka has directed X Corp (formerly Twitter) to deposit ₹25 lakh while staying till further order the ₹50 lakh cost imposed on the company by a single judge while dismissing the platform's petition against blocking orders issued by authorities in India.

The Bench passed the interim order on Thursday after hearing the preliminary submissions of the appeal filed by X Corp against the single judge's verdict.

The single judge, in his June 30 verdict, had upheld the legality of blocking orders, asking Twitter to block some accounts and objectionable tweets from some accounts, under provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Information Technology (Procedures and Safeguards for Blocking of Access to Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

While criticising the conduct of Twitter, the single judge had imposed ₹50 lakh as cost while directing the company to pay the amount to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within 45 days. Further, the single judge had said that Twitter has to pay an additional cost of ₹5,000 per day if it failed to pay ₹50 lakh in 45 days.

Twitter had sought an early hearing and stay of cost as the 45-day deadline would expire on August 15.

The Bench said that the single's judge's direction to pay cost and additional cost for delay would be stayed till further order subject to Twitter depositing ₹25 lakh in the court.

Contentions by Twitter

The micro-blogging platform, in its appeal, has contended that the single judge had erroneously held that appellant is not entitled to rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and incorrectly held that Section 69A (1) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 also permits blocking of the Twitter account itself, instead of blocking only the disputable contents.

The single judge's verdict did not apply the correct legal standard to determine whether the blocking orders are reasoned, and the verdict allows the authorities to act arbitrarily, because it upholds blocking orders issued without reason, it was claimed in the appeal.

The appeal termed as unjustifiable the exemplary cost imposed on the company by the single judge while contending that the cost was not as per the guidelines issued by the apex court for imposing cost on litigants.

INBRIEF

KSMCA donates ₹1 crore to CM's Relief Fund

Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited (KSMCA) on Thursday donated ₹1 crore from its profits for the year 2022-23 to CM's Relief Fund. Minister and chairman of KSMCA M.B. Patil, and KSMCA MD Siddalingappa B. Pujari presented the cheque to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary to the government, Commerce and Industries Department, P.S. Nandisha, Deputy GM, KSMCA, Rashmi Yadathi, manager, Finance and Accounts, and Latha Naik, Deputy Director, Administration, were present.

Dak Adalat on August 28

The office of the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, Bengaluru, will hold a regional Dak Adalat on August 28 at 12 noon. The adalat will be held in the conference room of O/o the Postmaster General South Karnataka Region in Bengaluru. The Department of Posts, in a release, said that those who would like to present their grievances on postal matters pertaining to South Karnataka Postal Region comprising of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Udupi districts may furnish the details of grievances on or before August 23, addressed to The Assistant Director (Staff), O/o the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, II Floor, GPO Building, Bengaluru-56001. Grievances can also be sent to ir.karsk@indiapost.gov.in

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th ANNIVERSARY

EDWIN ROBERT

Robert Being away from you, is like being away from the meaning of life.

from Wife & Daughters

REMEMBRANCE

Rosie Koithra
1953 - 2006

Beloved wife of Anthony Koithra, mother of Kiran Koithra and daughter of Mathew and Mariamma Alapatt. Mourned by mother, husband, son, siblings and all those whose lives she touched.

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CIRCLE-I, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107

SHORT E- TENDER NOTICE Dated : 10.08.2023

E-tenders are invited from the Government registered and experienced contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-I, Construction Wing, CMDA, Koyambedu, Chennai – 107, under Two cover system for the following works :

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	Rehabilitation Centre and Dialysis Centre for differently abled persons at Kondithoppu, Chennai.
2.	Refurbishment of Ennore Perishable Market & Community Hall, Chennai.
3.	Upgradation of Ambattur Bus Stand, Ambattur, Chennai.
4.	Modernisation of Thiru Vi Ka Nagar Bus Stand, Chennai.
5.	Upgradation of Eranga Nagar Pond in Mudichur Panchayat, Kancheepuram District.

E-tender Notice No.	11/2023-24 dated 10.08.2023
Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online	**28.08.2023** at **3.00 P.M.**
Downloading the tender document by Free of Cost.	From **14.08.2023** to **28.08.2023** upto **3.00 P.M.**
For further details visit website	**http://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/ 4458 /TENDER/2023

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, Circle-I, CW, CMDA, Ch-107

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BESCOM invites tender through kppp portal for **Enq No: CEE/BMANZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/23-24/Enq-10 Date: 09.08.2023,** Providing services of 16 no's of drivers to various divisions of East and North Circle in BMANZ, BESCOM, Bengaluru for a period of one year on contract basis. Issue of Bid documents on **11.08.2023** to **25.08.2023** at **14:00** hrs. Receipt of Bid Documents is **25.08.2023** upto **16:00** hrs. Opening of Bid Document on or after **28.08.2023** at **17:00** hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through kppp portal by visiting our website or directly you can access the tendering website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarifications about e-payment contact kppp portal help desk **080-22485867/22485927** or email to hphelpdesk.blr@rteservices.com for any issue.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele)
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ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಲೋ.ಇ./ಬಾ.ವಿ./ಪಿ.ಬಿ./ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ/2023–24/1095 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09–08–2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ **ಜಮಖಂಡಿ, ಬೀಳಗಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗದ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : 1452, 1456, 1464, 1471, 1479, 1482, 1483, 1493, 1495, 1496, 1498, 1499, 1502, 1503, 1505, 1506, 1508, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1520, 2149, 2151, 2153

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ : 1426, 1459, 1480, 1500, 1509, 1518, 1519, 2039, 2038, 2036, 2023.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ : 2040, 2032, 2028, 2027, 2025.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 83.48 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 6.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	: **18–08–2023** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಬ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	: **21–08–2023** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ)	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ / ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	: **22–08–2023** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಡಿಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/79/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2023–24

ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(E-Procurement mode only)

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ಕಾಲೇಜು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ/ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ, ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಸ್ವಾಪ್ ನರ್ಸ, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 139 ಜನ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದಿನ ಆದೇಶದವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999, ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಂ/ಅಸಂಕಇ/ಹೊ.ಸಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–19/2023–24, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:ರೂ. 3.70 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಡಿಪಾಜಿಟ್ (ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ):ಬಿಡ್ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಶೇ.5 ರಷ್ಟು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಆರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.08.2023,ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ:25.08.2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00ಗಂಟೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.08.2023

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0831–2950349 ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-255/MCA/2023-24

Transit Oriented Development has great potential, but only with a master plan

TOD looks fine in a greenfield area, but what about in a sprawling metropolis like Bengaluru or even its outskirts, left to grow unregulated in wild, haphazard ways?

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

TOD might be a challenge in brown-field situations, where retro-fitting the concept on already congested areas will prove tough to execute.

Can Transit Oriented Development (TOD), where homes, offices, and commercial spaces are within walking, cycling, and public transport distances from a Metro or Suburban station, be retrofitted to fix Bengaluru's perennial mobility issues? That looks like a far cry, but without a proper master plan in place, a TOD-first approach to guide the city's future looks even more complicated.

TOD looks great on paper. It was drafted by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in May 2019 and approved first by the Bommai Government in November 2022. Besides ease of access, TOD also proposes a boost to vertical growth through land use changes, and a consequent push to population density along Metro, suburban, and other mass transit corridors.

Now, this should sound like a dream for anyone caught in gridlocked traffic, struggling to access even the nearest Metro station or bus stop. Cycling lanes are non-existent today, and footpaths everywhere are almost always in dire need of maintenance. In a core TOD zone, a mass transit station will be just 500 metres or a six-minute walk away. Beyond this core area, the TOD extends to a kilometre where the station will be within a six-minute cycling distance.

Retro-fitting TOD

The obvious question that crops up is this: TOD looks fine in a green-field area, where a new Metro or suburban line enters with the promise of local development. But what about the congested heart of the city, or even its outskirts, left to grow unregulated in wild, haphazard ways? Besides, Multi-Modal Integration (MMI), a key element of the TOD concept, is almost a joke today, with even a pedestrian bridge linking a Metro and Railway Station taking years to get off the drawing board.

Embedded in the proposed TOD ecosystem, MMI talks about ensuring seamless connectivity from transit hubs to homes / destinations through easy, sustainable, and convenient mobility options. MMI is also about ensuring easy transfers between different modes such as the Metro, BMTC bus, cycling, and walking. This is achieved both physically and digitally through infrastructure, ticketing and travel information.

But to get moving on TOD and other critically linked policies, the State should have clarity on the way forward.

Mixed signals

Seeking public and institutional feedback on a sustainable 'Brand Bengaluru' cannot go with an unrelenting push for questionable projects such as Tunnel Roads, say mobility activists and experts. As one of them puts it, "This government is sending mixed signals. I don't think they have a clear vision of what they want to do."

TOD might be a challenge in brown-field situations, where retro-fitting the concept on already congested areas will prove tough to execute.

But, as Dr. Ashish Verma, convenor of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Sustainable Transportation Lab, points out, it can work in green-field situations if planned and structured well. A new Metro station in an area with less development could be a start.

Even in the inner city areas, elements of the TOD design can work, as tellingly illustrated by the Church Street First initiative three years ago.

Under the Clean Air Street initiative, Church Street was closed for motor vehicles every weekend for four months from November 7, 2020 to February 28, 2021. The objective was to re-prioritise clean mobility and demonstrate the positive impact of streets focused on people and sustainable behaviours.

Dr. Verma recalls that the pedestrianisation triggered a huge increase in ridership, both boarding and alighting at the MG Road Metro Station. "The increase was more than 100 percent during those months. Taking a cue from that, the TOD policy also talks about pedestrianisation within the influence zone of the mass transit nodes as one of the strategies.

The idea is to bring more people onto mass transit, influencing their commute behavior," he explains.

'Transit' in TOD first

Beyond walkability, there is a need to focus on the Transit part of the TOD, contends Shaheen Shasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike. "How do we develop transit in places that are already so densely packed? If you take the Outer Ring Road (ORR), what we need is transit and not TOD. Can TOD help address last mile connectivity, because of which people are not able to use the buses?" she wonders.

Shaheen says TOD should adopt a transit-first approach, particularly public bus transport. "Currently, all the road development, traffic management, one-ways, U-turns are anti-bus. How much can a bus do? We are not developing and planning for a bus at all. It is not even in our imagination when we do the traffic planning."

In a car-obsessed mobility ecosystem that wants private vehicles to whizz past without stopping, how viable is a TOD? This is her question. "Bus commuters are spending that extra three-four minutes to take skywalks and elevators (that rarely works). Their time is not valuable at all. If TOD can address these issues, then I am for it," she says.

Beyound real-estate

Proximity to the mass transit stations for all sections of society is critical. Densification through vertical growth and land-use changes should not end up benefiting only the real estate players. Urban planning expert V. Ravichandar particularly stresses a broader approach: "The TOD should not just be about increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR), it should also meet the social objectives."

He elaborates, "You have to be clear that part of the development has to be for social rental housing so that the cooks and drivers can live in the neighbourhood around a metro station. TOD should not end up gentrifying the area, where the poor have to move further and further away." Higher FAR alone will not make TOD work, says Radha Chanchani, Senior Manager, Sustainable Cities Programme, World Resources Institute (WRI), India. "Definitely, without looking at all of those development regulations and rationalizing them higher FAR will not even serve as an incentive," she adds.

TOD-based city growth

The way the TOD concept was incorporated into the previous master plan, she recalls, was extremely limited. "It was not at all meaningful at the city level. The principles detailed in the TOD policy, such as focus on non-motorised transport, place-making, sustainable practices, and a whole host of other issues that are infinitely more important than higher FAR, should be incorporated into the city's master plan. You need to have a TOD-based city growth strategy, like how Delhi, Ahmedabad, and other major world cities are doing it," Radha explains.

The strategy, she says, should be based on very tight land use transport integration and compact city development. "You need a different and special regulation for the TOD zones to enable higher density mixed use development. There is a clear logic. Higher order transit infrastructure can take higher intensity of land uses because it can service a larger number of trips. It needs supporting infrastructure."

Low income housing

Besides, TOD is also not a one size fits all. "You have to have a framework that is flexible and nuanced enough to respond to the city level strategy. But it has to respond to the local station area conditions also. That framework is being developed, both to inform the city level strategy as well as how to do detailed TOD zone plans and spatial areas that respond to local needs," says Radha Chanchani.

On the real estate front, developers often play up proximity to the Metro as property promotion. TOD, if not planned and executed well, could end up pushing this even further. But, as Dr. Ashish warns, TOD should not create one kind of real estate unaffordable to even the middle classes. "Then you defeat the whole purpose. If you put real estate in the TOD zone for people who are rich, then in all likelihood, they will still own and use their personal vehicles irrespective of how close the transit option is," he reasons.

> The TOD should not just be about increased Floor Area Ratio, it should also meet the social objectives.
> **V. RAVICHANDAR**
> Urban planning expert

The development in the TOD zone should be regulated to accommodate even middle and low income housing, he says. "The real estate mafia cannot be allowed to capture the TOD opportunity and use it as a way to upscale their property values."

Integrating the TOD into a well-structured master plan for the city, as Shaheen reiterates, should also include affordable housing built around affordable transit options. In Bengaluru, that remains the BMTC bus, which carries massive numbers of people every day.

The TOD has to prioritise the issues of the most vulnerable, she says.

"We need more buses, bus depots, and plans aligned to seamless access and movement of buses. First, think how you will ensure transport to communities pushed out of the city in the name of development."

Specialised daycare centre for chemotherapy inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The centre has the capacity to perform 50-55 chemotherapies.

A specialised daycare centre to create a comfortable and safe set-up for patients undergoing chemotherapy was inaugurated at Manipal Hospitals on Old Airport Road in the city on Thursday.

Daycare centre for chemotherapy patients is a novel concept that offers patients the convenience of returning home on the same day of their infusion. In this day-care centre, patients do not need to use a hospital bed for their treatment instead they have the option to be comfortably seated on a private couch, or in a shared lounge area.

The centre has a stock of IV set with covering (black colour), Bard port and Power Port for Chemoport and cooling caps to reduce the hair fall while doing the chemotherapy infusions.The day-care centre is also equipped with a dedicated cytotoxic drug mixing room for the safety of the patients and healthcare workers, according to a statement from the hospital.

The centre has the capacity to perform 50-55 chemotherapies at a time, with doctors and the staff monitoring the vitals of the patients. "It is strategically placed close to the outpatient department (OPD). This ensures that the patient does not have to move around too much within the hospital for relevant treatment and meetings with doctors.

It will also reduce the risk of the patient falling prey to hospital-acquired diseases by maintaining a safe environment for cancer patients, who suffer from compromised immune systems," the statement added.

Conjunctivitis: AI-driven research links low Vitamin D with a higher risk of allergy

Over 60% of the 220 patients who had a severe infection had low Vitamin D levels

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India is currently facing an epidemic of this contagious eye infection.

An Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven research and Biomarker study by a city-based private eye hospital has revealed that those with low Vitamin D and allergies are the ones who are getting severely affected by conjunctivitis.

A study of tears from 335 conjunctivitis patients that was done at Narayana Nethralaya's GROW (Genes Repair and Regeneration in Ophthalmic Workstation) Lab has shown that over 60% of the 220 patients who had a severe infection had low Vitamin D levels. Along with this, nearly 50% of them had systemic allergies and/or asthama.

What makes condition severe

"The most important area that holds promise is the study of tears from the conjunctivitis patients to identify unique molecules which make the condition severe. This AI driven molecular study gives the advantage of early intervention and prediction on who will probably go into a more aggressive form and have more challenges," said Rohit Shetty, hospital chairman.

He said this will allow a clinician to titrate and triage the treatment better. "This biomarker work in tears is probably one of the first in the country and this could be also one of the first conjunctivitis related tear biomarker research in the world," he claimed.

Conjunctivitis, also known as 'pink eye', is spreading rapidly in the city. In fact, India is currently facing an epidemic of this contagious eye infection, which spreads through contact with contaminated fluids or surfaces.

Symptoms

Symptoms of conjunctivitis include redness, itching, swelling, excessive tearing, discharge from the eyes and crusting of the eyelids. Treatment usually involves management of symptoms.

Symptoms of conjunctivitis include redness, itching, swelling, excessive tearing, discharge from the eyes

This may include use of antibiotics drops, steroid drops, vitamin supplements and use of oral antibiotics depending on the severity, the doctor said.

"The cause of pink eye can be due to bacterial, viral, or allergic sources. However, the current epidemic appears to be primarily viral, specifically linked to an Adenovirus strain," said Dr. Shetty.

"Our focus is on addressing the core of the disease and our research is aimed at achieving this goal. The diverse biomarker information obtained from conjunctivitis patients' eye tears aids in better understanding of the condition and assisting clinicians in offering more personalised treatment plans," he added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1973

Enough Gold in KGF for another 100 years

BANGALORE, Aug. 10: The Chairman and Managing Director of the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Mr. K.V. Subramanyam, said here to-day that Mining Operations could be carried on in the Kolar Gold Fields for another 100 or even 200 years. In the future, gold itself might become a byproduct, and exploitation of other minerals would take precedence.

Speaking on "management problems in a nationalised undertaking" under the auspices of the Institute of Management here, Mr. Subramanyam said that the KGF had deposits of a host of minerals like graphite ursenic, copper, cobalt, and zinc.

There were miles and miles of rock containing arsenic. He said so far only gold was being mined and other minerals which were also equally important were not being exploited. If all the minerals were exploited, mining in Kolar would become economic. Gold reserves were available to the north and south of the present mining area.

Economy steps will not affect Development Schemes in Mysore

BANGALORE, Aug. 10: The Finance Minister, Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade, said here to-day that the economic measures announced by the Government and the measures for improvement of revenues would not affect essential development expenditure like irrigation and power.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

DK and Udupi high on development

Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts are known for educational and financial institutions, and religious tourism. Once undivided, Udupi district was carved out in 1997. Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts are ranked second and fourth, respectively, in terms of human development index as per recent Human Development Report 2022.

Erstwhile Canara district

Before 1860, the two districts were part of the Canara district and under Madras Presidency. The British split the coastal region into South Canara and North Canara. During reorganisation of states in 1956, Kasaragod was transferred to Kerala and the undivided Dakshina Kannada became part of Mysore State (present-day Karnataka).

A pioneering institution

Karnataka's only National Institute of Technology is at Surathkal in Mangaluru. It was earlier near Karnataka Regional Engineering College and it was established in 1960. U. Srinivasa Mallya, a member of Constituent Assembly, was founder of this institute. Mr. Mallya was behind the setting up of Mangalore Port and also mooting other development works.

Many Speakers from the region

Luminary Bantwal Vaikunta Baliga from Dakshina Kannada district was the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly between March 1962 and June 1968. K. S. Hegde was Speaker of Lok Sabha between July 1977 and January 1980. Five-time MLA from Mangaluru Assembly constituency, U.T.Khader, is now the Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

The valour of Rani Abbakka

The valour of Rani Abbakka is well known in coastal Karnataka and beyond. The queen from Chowta dynasty fought against Portuguese in the latter part of 16th century. The port town of Ullal was her subsidiary capital, while her capital was Putthige. The 'Veera Rani Abbakka Utsava' is an annual celebration held in her memory at Ullal.

It's a tough fight with narcotics for police and district officials in Dakshina Kannada

Since June, the city police have taken up 'Drug-free Mangaluru' drive. The drive gained strength and Dakshina Kannada district administration too joined hands following the call by Home Minister G. Parameshwara to free the coastal districts from drugs

Mangaluru city police and Dakshina Kannada district police burned and disposed of more than 300 kg of ganja and other drugs seized in various cases as part of Anti Drug Day.

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

A few days ago, the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Mangaluru submitted a report to the city police stating that 108 kg of chocolates recently seized by the police from two places, including a petty shop, in the central district area of the city, were laced with cannabis (ganja).

The chocolates had been seized from Manohar Shet, 49, a resident of V.T. Road, and Bechan Sonkar, 45, a native of Goshi Tehsil of Uttar Pradesh, who had been arrested under provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act on charges of unauthorised possession and selling of ganja. They were produced before the jurisdiction magistrate, who remanded the two to 14 days of judicial custody.

Dr. Ravish Thunga interacting with officials at a workshop as part of drug-free DK campaign at Eric Mathias Hall, St. Aloysius College.

Ganja-laced chocolates seem to be the new substance that the youth in Mangaluru city have got addicted to. It's during the ongoing counselling of drug consumers, being held as part of "Free Dakshina Kannada of drugs" campaign, that the city police got information about sale of ganja-laced chocolates.

After raiding several shops and other establishments, the city police seized ₹5,500 worth chocolates from the petty shop of Sonkar in Falnir in the city. These chocolates were being sold across the counter as 'Mahashakti Munakka', 'Bum Bum Munakka Vati', 'Power Munakka Vati', and 'Anand Choorna'. Later the police seized 12,592 ganja chocolates from the shop of Shet on Car Street. Having booked the two shop owners for food adulteration, the city police sought the report of RFSL to confirm the presence of ganja in chocolates. Though they were initially referred to as "bhang chocolates" the police on RFSL analysis found the substance to be ganja.

Commissioner of Police Kuldeep Kumar R Jain (left) along with Mahesh Kumar Naik, ACP North holding a meeting with the public as part of drug-free campaign.

Deadline set by HM

Since June, the city police took up the 'Drug-free Mangaluru' drive. The drive gained strength and Dakshina Kannada district administration too joined hands following the call by Home Minister G. Parameshwara asking district administrations of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi to free the two coastal districts from drugs and addictive substances. "There should not be any sale of drugs post August 15," Mr. Parameshwara set an ambitious task for the police and district administration following review meetings in Mangaluru and Udupi on June 6.

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner M.P. Mullai Muhilan said a good number of students from different parts of the country study in over eight medical colleges, other para-medical colleges, and a host of other institutions of repute in the district.

"Because of the sheer scale of students studying in the education institutions, there is an increase in the consumption base of drugs. As the demand for drugs is more, its availability is high," he said and added there is a perception that narcotic drugs sale and consumption is high in Dakshina Kannada. While stating that a complete end to sale and consumption is difficult. Mr. Muhilan said the district administration is working towards a comprehensive approach where the demand for drugs is curtailed by choice. "Police and district administration are working as one unit for this cause," Mr. Jain said.

Mangaluru city and Dakshina Kannada district police have been acting against drug peddlers. Counselling sessions are being held at the police stations for drug consumers after screening them for drug consumption. The police, in association with Anti Tobacco Cell of Department of Health and Family Welfare, have been regularly raiding shops near educational institutions and booking cases against shop owners under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act for selling cigarettes, which are often gateways to drugs consumption.

Drug route

Mr. Jain said he is not sure of the gravity of drug abuse in the region as drugs are routed to the coastal belt from Bengaluru, Mumbai, and other parts of the country through different modes.

"We are making sincere efforts to bring down the demand," he said.

The city police seized over ₹75 lakh worth drugs in the last eight months, which is more than ₹60 lakh and ₹74 lakh worth narcotic drugs seized in in the whole of 2022 and 2021, respectively.

In terms of peddlers, Mr. Jain said the city police have so far in this year booked 43 peddlers of which more than 50% are first timers. As many as 34 peddlers were booked in 2022 and 52 were booked in 2021. "We are tracing more peddlers from those who are booked. We have also opened a channel of communication with drug consumers, which has been helping us in catching the peddlers," Mr. Jain said.

CM's direction

Following a recent direction by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mr. Jain said the city police are invoking provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act for externment and attachment of property of these accused. "The PITNDPS is being invoked for the first time. Proposal to invoke it against two persons has been finalised," he said.

On the other hand, the Dakshina Kannada administration has revived the 'Anti Drug Cells' in education institutions. These cells are being given responsibility of holding counselling sessions for students who are under the influence of drugs.

"Counselling session has to be held at regular intervals to build the self esteem of consumers and bring them out of influence of drugs. Many cells have already started it," said Dakshina Kannada Additional Deputy Commissioner G. Santosh Kumar. Counselling facility at the Government Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru and other government and private health facilities were being used, he added. The cells will be coordinating with police in making their campuses free from drugs, Mr. Kumar said.

The district health department has provided drug screening kits, which resembles pregnancy kits, to primary health centres for screening of suspected drug consumers. Using the kits police are screening suspects quickly and thus preventing delay in bringing suspects all the way to health facilities in Mangaluru for screening, said District Health and Family Welfare Officer M. Kishore Kumar.

Drastic increase in consumption

While commending the police and the district administration's ongoing drive against drugs and its abuse, Mahabalesh Shetty, Professor and Head, Department of Forensic Science, K. S. Hegde Medical Academy, Mangaluru, said there is drastic increase in instances of consumption of synthetic drugs namely MDMA and LSD in the city and in other parts of Dakshina Kannada.

"These synthetic drugs are difficult to be identified," he said. The peddlers are using different means to contact consumers and reach out to them.

There are also several instances of consumption of barbiturates, the scheduled sedative drugs, without prescription.

"For a meaningful result, the anti-drug drive should be carried out across the country," Dr. Shetty said. Unlike the present screening test, the investigation agencies should go for multi-drug screening test to identify consumers of MDMA and other narcotic drugs.

Dr. Shetty, who has held anti drug campaigns across institutions in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, said regular nicotine screening test should be held for students from Classes 7 to 12. "In this way we can prevent a whole generation of youths from falling prey to drug abuse," he said.

Ending in acquittal

Former Director General of National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, G. Shreekumar Menon, said it is important for investigation agencies to ensure that investigation is done as per stringent procedure prescribed under the NDPS Act for conviction of drug peddlers. "Presently most of the cases are ending in acquittal," Mr. Menon said.

Arrests made by city police some time ago revealed that among the drug consumers included some doctors and medical students of a medical college and hospital of repute in Mangaluru. Former Deputy Superintendent of Police Harishchandra said that there have been many communal murders in the twin districts under the influence of drugs.

"Earlier murder accused were indulging in crime under the influence of alcohol, but now its being done under influence of cannabis and antidepressant drugs," he said.

63 retired IFoS officers from across India write to Centre on misuse of Forest Rights Act

They say that as per the Act, claimants who are in possession of forest land as of December 13, 2005, are eligible for grant of title over forest land

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

A group of 63 retired IFoS officers from different States have written letters to the top brass at the Centre, including Prime Minister, Union Ministers of the MoEF&CC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, expressing concern over the alleged misuse of Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006.

The officers alleged that some States have granted title for lakhs of acres of forest lands by misusing loopholes in the rules and ambiguous guidelines issued from Ministry of Tribal Affairs. FILE PHOTO

The officers have alleged that in the recent past, some States have granted title for lakhs of acres of forest lands by misusing loopholes in the rules and ambiguous guidelines issued from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). They said that as per the Forest Rights Act, claimants who were in possession of forest land as of December 13, 2005, are eligible for grant of title over forest land.

"In recent years, District Level Committees, ostensibly under directions of political executives, are misusing FRA/Rules especially that relate to the oral evidence of village elders, by not taking satellite imagery-based evidence into consideration, and by avoiding to take cognizance of gram sabhas conducted for the purpose repeatedly without following the provision regarding extension of time limits for claim submission. As a result occupational/cultivation rights/titles (generally called *patta*)are being recognised in favour of ineligible claimants who occupied forest land even after the cut-off date of 13.12.2005," they said in the letter.

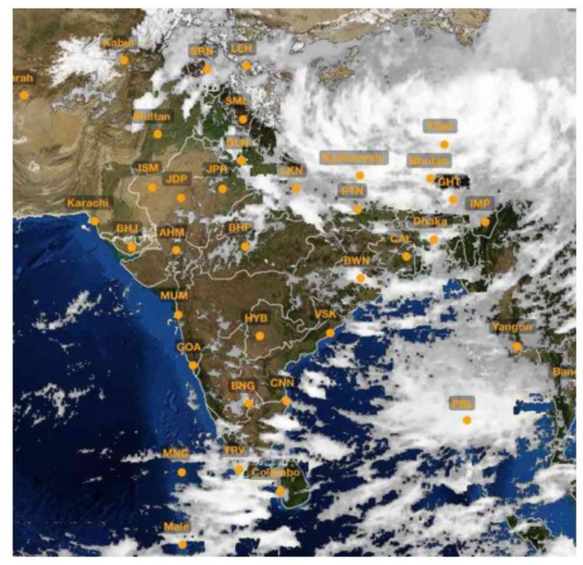
This is not only a violation of FRA, but is also violative of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and Indian Forest Act, 1927, the pointed out. "Not just on all other forest lands, but the right of management is being granted even inside Tiger Reserve areas with gross contempt towards the letter and spirit of the Act; some glaring examples existing in the States of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka," the letter said.

The IFoS officers submitted a list of suggestions to plug loopholes in implementation of FRA, including giving instructions to all States to direct forest field officials to present satellite imageries showing status of forest encroachment as of December 13, 2005, and other documentary evidences, issuing instructions to the effect that claims will not be admitted solely on the evidence of village elders but it should be supplemented with any other evidence.

"Unfortunately, MoEF has not been monitoring implementation of FRA and has left it to MoTA and State Forest Departments. As the custodian of forests, it is the primary responsibly of MoEFCC to ensure that ineligible claimants are not given forest rights in violation of FCA 1980 under the pretext of implementation of FRA," the officers add.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Manipur and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	32.4	25.6	Kozhikode	—	32.6	25.8
Ahmedabad	0.2	31.5	26.5	Kurnool	34	34.1	23.5
Aizawl	—	29.4	21.9	Lucknow	—	32.9	27.1
Allahabad	—	35.0	27.6	Madurai	42	36.1	23.5
Bengaluru	—	30.0	21.8	Mangaluru	4.6	30.4	24.4
Bhopal	—	—	23.2	Mumbai	2	31.3	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.1	27.6	Mysuru	—	32.0	23.0
Chandigarh	1	33.4	27.0	New Delhi	—	35.2	27.0
Chennai	35	35.5	26.2	Patna	18	32.5	26.8
Coimbatore	—	34.4	24.0	Port Blair	1	31.0	26.2
Dehradun	17.9	29.6	23.6	Puducherry	5.6	33.4	24.0
Gangtok	19	22.8	18.0	Pune	0.3	29.4	22.1
Goa	4	31.8	23.8	Raipur	10	32.5	24.5
Guwahati	—	34.7	26.5	Ranchi	0.2	30.0	22.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	5	22.8	17.9
Hyderabad	—	32.8	24.1	Shimla	2	22.8	17.4
Imphal	2	31.0	21.9	Srinagar	—	32.7	20.6
Jaipur	—	33.5	—	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	24.9
Kochi	—	30.0	26.4	Tiruchi	42	36.5	23.4
Kohima	31	22.2	18.4	Vijayawada	—	37.4	27.4
Kolkata	2	32.6	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	..36	.49	69	...117	
Bengaluru	...7	..23	.69	40	...116	
Chennai	...9	..26	111	55	55	
Delhi	...7	..66	.32	...187	...139	
Hyderabad	...5	.45	.12	75	...123	
Kolkata	.15	.33	.49	...108	...100	
Lucknow	...4	..12	.29	88	...113	
Mumbai	.46	..16	.50	27	74	
Pune	132	222	111	72	64	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..44	.34	69	...136	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 319 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ahead of Chandrayaan-3 lander's soft landing, ISRO assesses current situation around the moon

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

In the run-up to the Chandrayaan-3's lander's soft landing on the moon's surface on August 23, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has carried out an assessment of the current space situation around the moon.

The space agency, which released the document on August 9, stated that the moon and Mars are the most explored and also comparatively more crowded planetary bodies at present.

It added that India's Chandrayaan-3 is the latest entry into lunar orbit and more intensified activities around the moon are foreseen in the next few years due to the renewed interest in lunar exploration, heralded by Artemis missions for return to the moon and preparations for colonisation of Mars.

"While the previous missions were essentially aimed at scientific explorations, upcoming ventures will likely involve multiple actors of diverse interests, including those primarily driven by resource utilisation for commercial purposes. A better understanding of the environment is needed to formulate reasonable mitigation practices to avoid close-approach threats in planetary orbits," ISRO said.

ISRO said that as of July 2023, there are six active lunar orbiters. It said that two of the five probes of NASA's THEMIS mission have been re-purposed under ARTEMIS as ARTEMIS P1 and ARTEMIS P2 and both operate in eccentric orbits of low inclination.

The assessment stated that NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) orbits the moon in a nearly polar, slightly elliptical orbit. The Chandrayaan-2, the second lunar mission of ISRO and Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO) also operate in polar orbits of 100 km altitude.

Besides, NASA's Capstone operates in a 9:2 resonant southern L2 NRHO, its perilune passes over the lunar north pole at 1500-1600 km altitude, while the apolune is over the South pole at a distance of nearly 70,000 km. The Japanese spacecraft Ouna which was placed in lunar orbit as part of Kaguya/SELENE mission in 2009 and Chandrayaan-1 launched in 2008 are the two defunct spacecraft, ISRO said.

It said that all the other orbiters have been either moved out of the moon-bound orbital regime or have landed/impacted the lunar surface, either deliberately or due to failure to land softly. For example, the Chang'e 4 mission's data relay satellite Queqiao, launched by China in May 2018, was later moved to a halo orbit near the Earth-Moon L2 point.

"Currently, the only operating rover is China's Yutu-2 rover released by Chang'e 4, which operates on the far side. From the available media sources, it is expected that Luna-25 of Russia with a lander and rover will be in a lunar orbit of 100 km by August 16, 2023, and will be landing on the south pole of the moon by August 21-23, 2023," ISRO added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client, **Mr.Duralinge Gowda .K.S,** entered into Sale Agreement on 10/07/2023 for purchase of below mentioned schedule property from its owners **(a) H.S. Seetharamu (b) H.S. Gopinatha and (c) Satish Kumar, all are sons of Late H.K. Srikanta Jois and Late Smt. N.D. Savithramma** all are R/at No.96, 5th Cross, 8th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560072.

Any person/s, banks / financial Sectors / individual /authorities etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the schedule property shall file his/her/their/its objections along with original documents with the undersigned within **07 DAYS** from the date of this publication.

Any objections on and after 07 days, shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the sale transaction presuming that there are no claim/s of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE

BDA Property **No.96,** present BBMP Katha No. 96/96, 8th Block, **BDA Layout Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru** measuring East to West: 9.14 Meters and North to South: 12.19 Meters, totally measuring **111.41 Square Meters,** now comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No. 73 (Kottigepalya), Bengaluru together with existing old building and bounded on:

East by : Site No.95,
West by : Site No.97,
North by : 30 feet Road,
South by : Site No. 109 & 110.

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
#7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building,
Diagonal Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-04.
Bengaluru Date : 10-08-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the agreement of sale dated 23-01-2023 entered between the Our Clients **Smt. L Yeshoda Bai, W/o. Late. Lakshman Rao S, Smt. Swarnalatha L, L Prashanth Rao, L Pradeeep Rao,** all children of Late. Lakshman Rao S, all are R/at. No.24, 4th Main Road, KHM Block, Near Amanath Co-Operative Bank, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560 032 and Sri. Naveed Shariff, aged about 44 years, S/o. Late Mohammed Dastagirshariff, R/of. No.22/1, 1st Floor, Kaveriappa Layout, Mahaveerjain Hospital, Miller Tank Bundh Road, Bangalore-560 051, and the general Power of attorney dated 02.03.2023 executed by our clients Smt. L Yeshoda Bai, W/o. Late. Lakshman Rao S, Smt. Swarnalatha L, L Prashanth Rao, L Pradeeep Rao, all children of Late. Lakshman Rao S, in favor of Sri. Naveed Shariff, S/o. Late Mohammed Dastagirshariff,, pertaining to the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder written as Schedule Property, have been cancelled and revoked respectively vide legal Notices dated: 09.08.2023. And in view of the cancellation of the said agreement of sale dated 23.01.203 and revocation/cancellation the General Power Of Attorney dated: 02.03.2023, it is informed to general public not to deal with Sri. Naveed shariff, aged about 44 years, S/o. Late Mohammed Dastagirshariff in respect of the Schedule property, if anybody doing so, such of those persons shall not confer any right, title, interest over Schedule property, and the same does not bind on our clients in any manner and same shall be at their cost and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of site **bearing No.18,** Khata No.865, out of assessment No.34/9 and 34/15, situated at **Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now under the limits of Bruhat Bengalre Mahanagara Plaike, presently 2nd Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalore, totally measuring **2240 Square feet** along with residential building therein and bounded on the:-

East By : Road and site No.17;
West By : Private Property;
North By : Site No.19; and
South By : Private Property:

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of site **bearing No.19,** Khata No.869, out of assessment No.34/9 and 34/15, situated at **Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now under the limits of Bruhat Bengalre Mahanagara Plaike, presently 2nd Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalore, totally measuring **976 Square feet** along with residential building therein and bounded on the:-

East By : Road;
West By : Private Property;
North By : Site No.20; and
South By : Site No.18:

B M Kushalappa
Advocate
SAAN Law Associates
No.4(10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560 001.
Place: Bangalore Date: 10/08/2023

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Twenty-three-year-old Vasantha in her house at Mallenahalli, a hamlet in Tumakuru district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The tragedy of a tradition

In Mallenahalli, Vasantha and her newborn were confined to a *gudlu* outside their home in pouring rain, resulting in the child's death. Even amidst raised voices against the practice, many from the Kadu Golla community still enforce it, find Jahnavi T.R. and Jayanth R., who travelled to the area, less than 100 km from Bengaluru, a city known for tech innovation and global thought

Just a few kilometres off Tumakuru district, a stretch of *kaccha* road leads to a Gollarahatti (settlement of the Kadu Golla community) in Mallenahalli, a non-descript hamlet with mostly families who live in huts, a government school, and an anganawadi.

In a room of a particular home that can hold just about five-six people sitting close together is Vasantha, 23, clad in a faded red jacket with the hood over her head. She sits on a plastic mat, her eyes barely making eye contact with anyone. She does not speak much. Understandably so, because in the course of just over a month, she has lost two children.

This was the woman who had lost her baby allegedly due to an age-old practice among the Kadu Gollas, an OBC community in Category 1 (most backward). The traditional practice dictates that a newborn baby and the mother should stay in a makeshift tent-like structure (called *gudlu*) for a period of four to eight weeks, as the postpartum period is considered impure (*sutaka*).

Vasantha delivered twins, a girl and a boy, in her eighth month of pregnancy, on June 22. The boy died during the delivery, after which Vasantha and her daughter were brought to her mother's house in Mallenahalli. Here, she was confined to a *gudlu* with her baby, even as monsoon rains lashed the village. The baby, who was not named yet, developed a fever and respiratory complications. She was taken to the hospital but died on July 23, putting the practice followed by the Kadu Golla community in the spotlight again.

Another view of the *gudlu*. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

A *gudlu* is a U-shaped wooden structure covered by tarpaulin, with an entrance that requires a person to hunch. Inside, there is a wooden plank for the mother to sleep on and a cane *mora* (usually used for winnowing rice) where the baby sleeps.

> I do not like sitting outside. I have a lot of friends who do not practise this ritual any more. But my family won't listen. I too am devoted to our god, but it need not be this way.
> VASANTHA

"This is an ancestral practice. If we do not do this, then it angers our god, and we do not want that," says Nagamma. But they also take pride in saying that the practice is not as strict as it used to be.

Carefully folding her beetle leaf and popping it in her mouth, Neelamma speaks deliberately, "In earlier times, we would not take any medicines during our pregnancy or post-delivery. We would have five or six children back then. Times have changed now. When my sister's daughter was pregnant, we told her not to take any medicines, but my daughter, who is an ASHA worker, intervened and said she must take medicines," she says, with a hint of pride.

Once all the other women were out of earshot, Vasantha, who has studied up to Class X, says, "I do not like sitting outside. I have a lot of friends who do not practise this ritual any more. But my family won't listen. I too am devoted to our god, but it need not be this way."

The fear of god

A group of Kadu Golla women – Neelamma, Nagamma, Gangamma, and Chikkamma – sit down in the small space around Vasantha and speak at length about the practice of *sutaka*. Postpartum and menstruating women are kept out of their houses in makeshift or semi-permanent structures for a certain number of days. They say this practice has been carried on for centuries; it is 'normal'.

Culture clashes

Back in the 15th century, "The Kadu Gollas were a nomadic, cattle-rearing community. Since they were moving from place to place, they had developed this practice to keep women safe from the elements during the tiring times of menstruation and delivery," explains G.K. Prema, a lecturer at Sahyadri College in Shivamogga. She is one among the women from the Kadu Golla community who has fought ancient practices while also striving to protect the cultural identity of the community.

She says that in the last 50 years, the community has settled into rearing sheep and staying in one place, but the practice of building separate structures for new mothers and menstruating women has stayed. "Even though other communities have influenced them and have changed some of their ways, this belief [of women being impure at this time] remains," she said.

The people of the community look up to Junjappa and Yetthappa, their cultural heroes, and believe that if they do not live according to the code said to be laid down by them, ill luck will befall them. Prema says that the Kadu Gollas were a culturally rich tribe, and there should be a balance between reform, especially from the perspective of women, while also preserving the community's cultural heritage.

The lack of resources

What makes the elders of the community so averse to change? Part of the answer is evident all around the Mallenahalli Gollarahatti. Since they have not been declared a revenue village, which would give it a legal status, there is no development. Outside every hut, there is a woodfire and big vessels to heat water for bathing. There are no drainage lines. There is only one small tank for drinking water for the hamlet of about 30 families. Community members say that if they get possession certificates for the land they dwell on, they will be able to expand their houses and build rooms where menstruating women or new mothers can stay instead of in *gudlu* with barely any protection from the elements.

Residents of Mallenahalli speak about the age-old custom of a newborn baby and the mother being made to stay in a *gudlu*. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The *gudlu* where a newborn baby and the mother are made to stay for four to eight weeks. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Member-secretary of Tumakuru District Legal Service Authority and judge Nurunnisa, along with other officials, during their visit to Mallenahalli. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This problem is not limited to just one Gollarahatti but many across Tumakuru and Chitradurga districts. In 2019, the State government had ordered to declare all the Gollarahattis (along with settlements of various other backward communities), which are on government, private, and forest department lands, as revenue villages. The Tumakuru district administration has failed to do so.

Chinnappa, a Kadu Golla community leader from Tumakuru, says, "The district administration has neglected the Gollarahattis, and therefore, the *hattis* (settlement) are in bad condition, without any basic facilities. Kadu Golla people live in small huts. Most of the land belongs to private parties, and the landlords do not allow them to extend their houses. Due to these legal complications, the grama panchayats also do not provide any roads, drinking water, drainage, toilets, and other facilities."

As far as education goes, he points out that due to the lack of good hostels and other facilities, many girls from the community drop out after finishing high school. The ritual plays a part here, too, as menstruating girls have to miss six days of school every month when they get their period.

"Most of the Gollarahattis are in remote places and far away from taluks and districts. There are no proper roads or public transport connecting them to the mainstream. The government should provide boarding schools for the Kadu Golla community, especially for girls. Only then will they be motivated to leave behind such practices. We can already see that educated girls in the community do not agree to practise *sutaka*," said Shivakumara Swamy, advocate from the community, who works in Tumakuru.

Legal and administrative intervention

After the death of the child, Tumakuru district court judge and member secretary of the District Legal Service Authority, Nurunnisa, visited Gollarahatti and ordered the police to file an FIR against Vasantha's husband Siddesha and her father Chikkahuligappa. "This is being practised in places where there are no basic facilities, not even a proper road," she says. Upset by the tragedy, she took it upon herself to talk to people about how the practice is harmful. "There can be issues like sexual abuse, as there are no doors to the tents, or depression among girls who hit menarche or new mothers, or even the chances of such tragedies recurring," she says.

There is also an effort to create legal awareness in the community, which will help them avail themselves of basic resources. She also said that she had held discussions with the Deputy Commissioner about providing basic facilities. Srinivas K., deputy commissioner, Tumakuru, says, "I have already held a meeting with the community leaders and appealed to them to stop practices like *sutaka*. I have also ordered the officers concerned to provide basic facilities like drinking water and toilets to the Hattis.

He also said efforts were on to convert the Hattis into revenue villages. "Across the district, there are a total of 620 Gollarahattis. Most of these Hattis are located on private land. They have lived there for 50-60 years. Therefore, the district administration has already notified 76 Gollarahattis as revenue villages like Lambani Tandas (settlements of the Banjara community). We have also identified another 260 Gollarahattis to notify, and then we will provide possession certificates to their houses."

The need for balance

Many Kadu Golla community members are firm in their view that they need officials who bring in better infrastructure but those who are also sensitive enough to understand their ways. Prema says, "If we just call the practices unscientific and superstitious, they get hurt or put off. Tough legal rehabilitation will definitely help, but the responsibility of bringing reforms should equally be shared between the enlightened within the community and different wings of the government, which should provide the social justice the community deserves."

Despite the many disagreements among various groups within the community and outside of it, there is a consensus that Vasantha's tragedy should never happen again. Vasantha, though, in her gentle voice, says, *"Yella change agbeku ri* (Everything should change)."

Deep dive Scenes from Conference of the Birds; Shaheen Mistri (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Catch them young

Conference of the Birds, a musical, aims to embed the ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice, in children

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

What does freedom mean to a child, especially one from a disadvantaged background? For one it could mean the confidence to raise their hand in class, while for another it could be overcoming stage fright. The recently concluded *Conference of the Birds* saw participants from the Teach For India programme entrall audiences in Bengaluru.

Founded in 2008, Teach For India (TFI) is a not-for-profit with operations in eight cities in India, aiming to provide education to empower children with limited means.

According to Shaheen Mistri, founder and CEO of TFI, the idea for this year's musical stemmed from the need to shine a spotlight on the four ideals enshrined in the Preamble – liberty, equality, fraternity and justice.

"All around us, we see many instances of the breakdown of these four ideals. As educators, we wanted to give them a chance to understand what these ideals mean as well as give them a chance to live up to them and practise them," says Shaheen.

There is a 12th Century Sufi text titled *The Conference of the Birds* written by Attar of Nishapur, a poet. It is about a group of birds who come together to understand the meaning of the world and make it better.

"We used the basic story and the name of the book, to write a story about a group of children in India who form a secret club, become birds and go in search of the idea of India. They fly through four metaphorical valleys which stand for the values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice, in a bid to understand what they mean."

To make it a bit more fun, modern and engaging, the team at TFI wrote *Conference* as a *Hamilton*-style musical.

One of the highlights of the musical was how it showcased the outcome of the TFI programme. "Ten years ago, Priyanka Arora, a student of mine participated in another musical that I worked on. Though she came from an economically backward community in Pune, she went on to study at the Franklin Marshall University in the United States. Now, she's back to be a teacher with us."

Priyanka co-wrote the script and lyrics with Shaheen, co-directing the musical as well. Another former student, Khushi Chauhan, choreographed the musical.

"I was in Class III when TFI came to my Government school in Pune. They were producing a musical called *Maya* to explore the idea of compassion through singing, dancing and acting. I was among the selected students who went on an 18-month trip around India to collect ideas and learn different art forms," says Khushi, adding, "I remember the different places we visited and the new people we met. The idea was to find your true potential and the play was written around those gathered experiences."

After Class X, Khushi joined a music business startup and is currently pursuing a Bachelors in Music Production. "I also work as a music instructor for the children at TFI classrooms and have been a facilitator with them for the past 19 months," she says.

Over the last two years, the team from TFI also created a curriculum titled 'India and I Studies' – a set of ready-to-implement lesson plans for teachers for students from Classes II-VIII.

"'India and I Studies' is a curriculum of stories, social experiments. discussions and debates, to help children understand and practice these four values. Teach for India has made it free, open source material available for use by any teacher anywhere in the country who wants to inculcate these values in the next generation," says Shaheen.

The Teach For India programme is currently operational in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Kolkata. After their performance in Bengaluru, *Conference of the Birds* will open in Delhi this weekend.

For more details about India and I Studies, log on to kidseducationrevolution.org /conference- of-the-birds or teachforindia.org/

Conference of the Birds *will show in Delhi on August 12 and 13. Tickets on Bookmyshow*

STEPOUT

A film on Manipur

Spoorthidhama will screen a Manipuri film — *Nine Hills One Valley.* Directed by Haobam Paban Kumar, the 75-minute film is about Anam Ahum, a Tangkhul from the hills, who encounters different people and stories when he embarks on a trip to Imphal to meet his daughter. *On August 12, 2.30pm at Spoorthidhama, BEL Layout, Bedarahalli. Call 9535368657*

Coorg comes to you

Called Treasures of Coorg, this limited-time menu offers dishes such as kadambuttu-pandi curry (rice balls with pork curry), nool puttu-yerchi curry (string hoppers with mutton curry) and paputtu-koli curry (steamed rice cakes with chicken curry) to name a few. *On at Oota, Whitefield, till August 13. Call 45217761 for reservations.*

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Risky recourse

RBI's inflation-fighting mettle will be tested in the months ahead

The latest decision by the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to leave its policy rate unchanged is a calculated risk taken by the rate setting panel, especially when viewed in light of the upward revision of its inflation forecast. Barely two months after projecting Consumer Price Index-based inflation to average 5.1% over the current fiscal year ending in March 2024, the MPC has raised its forecast for the annual average by 30 basis points to 5.4%. Conceding that a spike in tomato prices had contributed to a shock that had forced a revision in the headline inflation projection for the July-September quarter by a 'substantial' 100 basis points to 6.2%, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das acknowledged that while the likely short-term nature of these shocks allowed for policymakers to look past a couple of high inflation prints, frequently recurring food price shocks risk destabilising inflation expectations. And while monetary authorities are right in laying the onus on the government for ensuring timely supply side interventions to 'limit the severity and duration of such shocks', a broader unmooring of price stability will undermine macroeconomic stability and growth. Underlining its commitment to aligning inflation to the target of 4% and keeping inflation expectations anchored, the MPC reiterated, by a majority, its policy stance of staying focused on the withdrawal of accommodation.

In a nod to the MPC's stance, the RBI, separately, temporarily imposed an incremental 10% increase in the cash reserve ratio banks must maintain, with a view to draining some of the surplus liquidity in the banking system that could spur prices. Mr. Das promised this increase would be reviewed on September 8 or earlier, to ensure adequate liquidity during the upcoming festival season. Still, given the MPC's sanguine outlook on economic growth, it has not only retained its forecast for the GDP to expand by 6.5% in real terms in 2023-24 but also stuck by its June projections for growth in each of the four quarters, the inflation shock notwithstanding. To be sure, the MPC has flagged several risks to the inflation outlook: the uneven rainfall distribution this year, the recent uptick in crude oil prices (the average price of the Indian basket has so far risen by 7% sequentially this quarter), and enterprises polled by the RBI expect output prices to harden. And while Mr. Das and his colleagues on the MPC have reaffirmed their readiness to take policy actions in order to align inflation to the target and ensure that inflation expectations remain well anchored, how quickly policymakers actually walk the talk and intercede in the coming months will determine their inflation-fighting mettle.

Needed intervention

Improving the habitat that sustains tigers is key to increasing their numbers

The Wildlife Institute of India and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, who are responsible for the quadrennial 'tiger census' reports, recently updated their estimates for the animal's numbers. Madhya Pradesh, for the second time in eight years, reported 785 tigers, or about a fifth of the national count. The State reported a 50% rise in tigers since the last census, a figure bettered only by Bihar which has less than 10% of M.P.'s tigers. While many factors contribute to the dynamics of the tigers present in a region, M.P. over the years has perfected the approach of actively moving both tigers, as well as their prey, within the State to balance predator and prey population.

In the last two decades, M.P. has reintroduced species such as barasingha (swamp deer) to new habitats such as Satpuda and Bandhavgarh, and the gaur to the Bandhavgarh and Sanjay-Dubri tiger reserves. Prey species such as chital (spotted deer) have been successfully supplemented in the Satpuda and Sanjay tiger reserves, Nauradehi, Kuno, and Gandhisagar wildlife sanctuaries through translocation from high-density Pench and Bandhavgarh. These often involve tracking, darting and capturing animals, keeping them in temporary enclosures until they reach sufficient numbers and then releasing them into their new habitat. Principles of ecology however insist that such relocation only be done within landscapes that are not too alien to the species, lest it be counter productive. However, recent amendments to the Forest Conservation Act give more leeway for large parcels of forest land to be diverted for industrial concerns. These would mean greater fragmentation within reserves and more dependence on the practice of moving prey around to maintain carnivore numbers. This approach, however, increasingly poses a conundrum to India's philosophy of conservation, which is to avoid creating fenced, segregated spaces and confine species to admittedly large but bounded tracts. India's conservation ethos, right from the conception of Project Tiger, was to restore the beast's numbers in a way that it could co-exist with humans. With the government finding it harder to maintain connected forest landscapes and ensure man and beast stay within their confines, expecting nature alone to restore the predator-prey balance is a fantasy. It is time that more States implemented active prey management policies. This will require drawing on scientific expertise and also support from people living in the vicinity of reserves. More importantly, this should prompt a move away from the approach of focusing on carnivore numbers to evaluating whether the habitat necessary to sustain these animals is being consistently improved.

Demolitions as state-sanctioned collective punishment

Gautam Bhatia

is a Delhi-based lawyer

The aftermath of the recent violence in Nuh, Haryana, saw what is now a familiar pattern: immediately after the violence, the local administration, backed by the state, demolished a number of homes in localities or neighbourhoods. These were the homes and neighbourhoods, a few political officials claimed, to which the accused rioters belonged.

The demolitions in Nuh are just the latest iteration of what has come to be called "bulldozer justice". For more than a year, from Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, to Khambhat in Gujarat, to Jahangirpuri in Delhi, to Nagaon in Assam, to many others, the demolition of homes as a form of frontier justice (as a response to political violence) has become a standard feature of administration.

A fig-leaf of legitimacy that falls away

In carrying out the demolitions, the state and its officials speak with a forked tongue. The public and official justification is that the demolitions are carried out in order to remove "illegal structures" or "encroachments". Municipal laws that authorise the removal of unauthorised structures are invoked as the legal cover for such action. This is the justification the state sticks to when it is challenged in court. However, even as it does so, politicians, and at times, even officials of the administration, go on record to say that the purpose of the demolitions is to "teach a lesson" to alleged rioters.

First, it is important to note that the state's public justification fails on its own terms. Over the years, the courts have recognised that what we euphemistically refer to as "unauthorised structures" are often the dwelling places of economically marginalised and vulnerable people, who have been failed by the state in its obligation to provide shelter to all its citizens. Consequently, other than enforcing basic procedural requirements – such as adequate notice – courts have also insisted that before demolitions are carried out, the administration must conduct a survey to check whether the residents are eligible for rehabilitation schemes, and if so, complete their rehabilitation (through a process of meaningful engagement) before any demolitions are done.

Rehabilitation, in turn, does not simply mean picking up people from one part of the town and dumping them in another, but ensuring that there is no substantial disruption to their (already) precarious lives.

> Abandoning the rule of law for 'bulldozer justice' is the first step towards an authoritarian society where ensuring a person's safety, life and liberty will be at the whims and fancies of state officials

The basic purpose is to ensure that the state does not simply make its own citizens homeless, and with no recourse. Doing so is a marker of an uncivilised society.

It is obvious that the instant demolitions that we see do not comply with these procedural or substantive requirements. Last year, it was found that notice in a demolition case was actually back-dated by the administration to give an appearance of complying; in the Nuh demolitions, there have been widespread allegations that the notice and the demolitions were carried out on the same day. The state's attempts to provide a fig-leaf of legitimacy to its demolitions, therefore, fall away at the slightest scrutiny.

A form of frontier justice

But at the end of the day, everyone knows that what is happening is not a dispute over municipal law, zoning regulations, and "unauthorised" structures. It is clear that what is happening is state-sanctioned collective punishment, which is predominantly targeted against specific communities. Instead of engaging the machinery of law enforcement and justice – which is what states bound by the rule of law do – the state prefers to mete out a form of frontier justice, enforcing order through violence, and itself becoming the law-breaker.

This is evident from the fact that, as pointed out above, politicians, administrators, and even on occasion the police have stated that the true purpose of demolitions is to target the homes of alleged rioters. It is evident from the timing of the demolitions, coming instantly after cases of violence. It is evident from the fact that the reality of our urban design is such that zoning regulations are dead letters: as people have repeatedly pointed out, a good part of Delhi's most affluent neighbourhoods has been built in violation of zoning regulations. Somehow, however, it is not these colonies that face the bulldozer, but the vulnerable and the marginalised. And it is evident from the fact that the demolitions have happened predominantly in Muslim neighbourhoods, in the aftermath of communal violence.

This has, admittedly, not always been the case: in Uttar Pradesh, demolitions have been carried out against the properties of various "gangsters", and in last year's Jahangirpuri violence, a Hindu man's shop was demolished for no perceivable reason. However, it has been repeatedly noticed – and Nuh is the most recent example – that when the bulldozers run, it is primarily in Muslim neighbourhoods. This pattern has now become impossible to ignore: just a few days ago, when issuing a stay order on the Nuh demolitions, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana observed that what was going on had the appearance of ethnic cleansing. Ethnic cleansing is not a phrase that should ever be used lightly, and the tragedy is that in this case, its use was undoubtedly apposite.

Bulldozer justice might satisfy the anger of people who have been caught up in riots, and who are accustomed to seeing the criminal justice system grind on for years without result. Indeed, whether it is extra-judicial killings or home demolitions, this is indeed the justification that is trotted out: that the courts are too slow, too prone to giving bail, and too indulgent in handing out acquittals. Therefore, in order to assuage public anger, the state must take it upon itself to deliver "justice" outside the bounds of law.

It should be obvious that this is dangerous and destructive logic. Bulldozer justice is a form of collective punishment, where punishment is not only meted out before guilt is proven, but along with the supposedly guilty individual, their innocent family members are also punished. No amount of populist satisfaction can justify such an action.

Furthermore, punishment without guilt – punishment at the discretion of the state – violates the rule of law. The rule of law is all that stands between a marauding state and the basic safety of individuals. Abandoning the rule of law for frontier justice is the first step towards an authoritarian society where one's safety, physical possessions, and even life and liberty, will be at the whims and fancies of state officials.

The silence of the judiciary

In this context, it falls to the courts to enforce the rule of law and the Constitution. Unfortunately, for more than a year, the courts have been silent; even the Supreme Court of India has, when faced with this situation, purported to accept the state's justification of going after "unauthorised structures." In doing so, the courts have, to use the words of George Orwell, chosen to "reject the evidence of their eyes and ears." The High Court of Punjab and Haryana's order marks the first time that the judiciary has taken active notice of this pattern of lawless bulldozer "justice". One hopes that it is the beginning of the judiciary reinforcing basic constitutional principles and values against state impunity.

India's Myanmar quandary, its paradoxical policy

Chetan Rana

is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

July 31 and August 1 will be recorded as the crucial dates when the history of Myanmar's ongoing tragedy was written. In the first case, the acting President of Myanmar, Myint Swe, announced the fourth extension of the 'emergency' for another six months, which is in violation of the 2008 Constitution. In the second instance, the military regime decided to release several political prisoners and even reduced the sentences imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the deposed President Win Myint. Ms. Suu Kyi was also moved out of prison to house arrest. However, these developments do not signal the dawn of a democratic and peaceful Myanmar.

Emergency and elections

The extension of the emergency further delays the elections proposed by the military. Min Aung Hlaing, the coup orchestrator, justified the extension due to the failure to establish 'normalcy' in large parts of the country. However, it is this pursuit of 'normalcy' that has resulted in suffering, with ACLED, or the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (a disaggregated data collection, analysis, and crisis mapping project) reporting that Myanmar civilians witness two and a half times more violence than those in Afghanistan.

The military regime's relentless campaign includes an average of over 30 airstrikes per month in 2023. Surprisingly, the Tatmadaw (the military of Myanmar) exerts real control in only 30%-40% of the territory, as in admissions from the Burmese military and a report of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M). A factitious national election would lead to the loss of further credibility if it is conducted only in a third of the country.

Moreover, the reshuffling within the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) under Khin Yi, is aimed at adding more military hard-liners, further raising concerns about the junta's commitment to democracy. The decision by the National League for Democracy decision not to participate in the new elections, combined with the exclusion of smaller parties through the new party registration laws, leaves no viable opposition to the USDP in a parliament whose constitutional structure gives the military a practical veto.

> India's official rhetoric on commitment to democracy in Myanmar is in contrast with its policy framed through the lens of its security concerns in north-east India and relations with China

The junta's decision to reduce Ms. Suu Kyi's sentence and shift her from the prison is a move that has perplexed a few. Yet, it is not a step towards democracy. Despite being the Tatmadaw's biggest rival, Ms. Suu Kyi has demonstrated a willingness to compromise and work with the military. She remains the rallying point for political change in Myanmar despite international criticism over her position/stand and role in the Rohingya persecution. Some protest may ease with these symbolic gestures. But more importantly,

Ms. Suu Kyi's return could potentially split the National Unity Government (NUG)-led resistance. A young generation of activists is leading the NUG and its cooperation with ethnic armed organisations and even reconciliation with Rohingyas. This could all change if Ms. Suu Kyi is back in active politics.

These symbolic gestures by the junta, as said, may ease some protests and allow the military to claim progress over international and regional appeals, possibly leading to a lifting of sanctions and revived economic prospects. Additionally, they offer political bandwidth and a face-saving token to actors engaging with the junta, such as India.

Indian policy

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the coup, India took a proactive approach by providing food and vaccine assistance. However, the plight of the Myanmarese people seems to have faded from memory, with accusations of instigating violence in Manipur replacing it. Communities along the border have already defied the Home Ministry by providing shelter to the refugees. Concerns over trafficking and drug smuggling in Myanmar led to India suspending the Free Movement Regime in September 2022. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar raised the issue of infrastructure projects and stability in border areas with his Myanmar counterpart Than Swe in Bangkok in July, on the sidelines of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting. India has also supported the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' 'Five-Point Consensus'. Nevertheless, India's policy towards Myanmar presents a paradox.

India's official rhetoric on commitment to democracy in Myanmar is in contrast with its policy framed through the lens of its security concerns in north-east India and relations with China. For example, India's announcement of the Sairang-Hmawngbuchhuah railway project near the Myanmar border, under India's Act East Policy, aims to counter China's railway access in Myanmar through Yunnan and the ambitious China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Disturbingly, sources such as Justice for Myanmar, SAC-M, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur have reported an increase in India's arms supply to the military since the coup. Arming the Tatmadaw not only undermines India's position on restoring democracy but also adds fuel to the fire, which spills over regularly across the border.

An approach to pursue

India's policy options in Myanmar are challenging, but not limited. The relaxation of Ms. Suu Kyi's prison sentence may provide an opportunity for India to engage with her and pro-democracy actors, including the NUG. Additionally, the government and media must avoid blanket securitisation and profiling of incoming refugees, many of whom have ties of kinship in India. This approach is essential to prevent further violence and foster an environment of care and compassion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Insult' and complaint

Over 20 women Members of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party are said to have been offended by an alleged act of misbehaviour by Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi a 'flying kiss'. One wonders whether these MPs spared a thought about the plight of women in Manipur, who experienced deep trauma as they were stripped, paraded naked and subject to abuse (Inside pages, "Women BJP MPs submit written complaint to Speaker", August 10). It is ironic that Union Minister Smriti Irani was more concerned about the 'flying kiss' than the state of women in Manipur. Her speech citing violence against women during Congress rule indicated her insensitivity towards the present sufferings of women in Manipur (Inside pages, "Bharat Mata has always stood tall in the face of attack, says Smriti Irani", August 10).

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

Mr. Gandhi has literally squandered all the gains he made from the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the reinstatement of his Parliament membership. His speech went well but all came to naught with a thoughtless gesture. The Wayanad MP should have remembered that we are in India, and that Parliament is still considered hallowed ground by many, where decorum and propriety are expected of its Members. His earlier act of hugging the Prime Minister and then winking did not go down well either. Indians and its Parliamentarians may lack a sense of humour, but Mr. Gandhi's action is a sign of a lack of maturity.

S. Kamat,
Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

It is a pity that both parties, the BJP and the Indian National Congress, find comfort in petty issues instead of having meaningful discussion on the serious issues the country is facing. The cases of "Narendra Modi's silence" and "Rahul Gandhi's flying kiss" are being unduly magnified by the parties. It is surprising that no political party reacted on being informed that banks have written off bad loans worth ₹14.56 lakh crore in the last nine financial years, from 2014-15. This also exposes the nexus between corporates and political parties.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

In Chennai

India's 4-0 score win against Pakistan in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Chennai was stunning. India is well on course to attaining hockey glory.

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address of the sender and the full name or the name with initials.

Should there be a blanket ban on smartphones in schools?

Jyoti Arora

is Principal of the Mount Abu Public School, Delhi and a member of the CBSE Governing Board

PARLEY

India has 1.2 billion mobile phone users and over 600 million smartphone users. That figure is expected to cross a billion by 2026, according to a Deloitte study, indicating that a future world will be dependent on these small devices. However, one place where smartphone usage has become controversial is the classroom. Last month, UNESCO recommended a universal ban on the usage of smartphones in schools, saying that it was needed to tackle classroom disruption, improve learning, and help protect children from cyberbullying. In an advisory dated August 10, titled "Restrictions on the use of mobile phones in school premises under rule 43 of DSER 1973", the Directorate of Education, Private School Branch, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, has highlighted the need for all stakeholders connected with school education such as students, parents, teachers and heads of schools "to arrive at a consensus on the minimum use of mobile phones in the school environment so that a more meaningful learning atmosphere could be maintained in the classroom". In a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj**, Jyoti Arora and K.R. Maalathi weigh in on whether a complete ban on smartphones in schools is necessary. Edited excerpts.

K.R. Maalathi

is an educator, with experience in teaching, curriculum design, and school establishment and management

Jyoti Arora, as principal of a school, what do you think of UNESCO's recommendation, and what has been your experience?

Jyoti Arora: UNESCO has clearly warned against an uncritical rush towards embracing digital products in educational settings. There is some evidence of digital technology's added value in education. But there is a clear threat also, with the report highlighting that mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students. This is more than sufficient for us to understand that mobile phones should not be allowed in the education system. When you speak about the future and say that it will be completely dependent on technology, to my understanding, the future is in our hands. And certainly we want to create a safe future for our learners.

I firmly believe that mobile phones should not be allowed in schools. It's a significant source of distraction. Students are easily tempted to check notifications; they play games and engage on social media, leading to a complete decline in their focus on academic tasks. Any decision on this issue must prioritise student well-being and align with an institution's core values.

'In countries that have done extensive research, they put an age restriction on when students can bring phones into the classroom'. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

K.R. Maalathi, you have helped to set up schools in India, Qatar and Africa. What is the international perspective on positives and negatives?

K.R.M.: Prior to the pandemic, smartphones were definitely a no-no. But when the pandemic hit, everybody, [including children], began to use smartphones. In developed countries like Finland, Australia, England and others, smartphones were already widely used. A blanket ban cannot be an answer. Children have access to it, and parents are giving it to them. And there's an increasing number of education tech products. We talk about digitalisation and the NEP (National Education Policy) too gives a lot of importance to smartphones. Even the state curriculum gives a lot of QR codes [for additional resources].

Researchers feel that this is the way to go forward, with AI coming into the big picture. But does it really help, or what kind of damage it may do, we have not done the research in India yet. In countries that have done extensive research, they put an age restriction on when students can bring phones into the classroom, which, on an average, is 16 years; in Finland, it is about 12 years. In our country, even if there's a ban, children are anyway bringing it discreetly to the classes. Frisking happens inside classrooms to see whether children are carrying it, and that brings a lot of pressure on the school. There is a question of age-appropriateness too. In England, children are allowed to carry their phones from about Year Four and Year Five, but they have to deposit the devices. In Finland, from about 12 years they are allowed to bring their phones to the classroom and keep it with them even during classes.

Earlier, Australia had no restrictions, but post-COVID, looking at the emotional and mental well-being of students and behavioural problems, they have also brought in some restrictions with regard to usage of smartphones on campus.

In many ways, the global situation is in a flux. UNESCO says that one in four countries now have a ban or some sort of restriction. Ms. Arora, you are on the CBSE Governing Board. Should it impose a ban for all schools, or should schools make their own rules?

J.A.: The intervention of authorities is highly solicited. At home, if children are using it in a safe manner, under supervision of parents, that's perfectly alright. But there are dangers. There is research conducted by the London School of Economics, highlighting the positive effects of not allowing mobile phones, because it clearly enhances academic performance. Psychologists also advocate that mobile phones are addictive in nature, and can hinder concentration and social skills, and cause increased anxiety and mental illness.

> Teenagers do not know the world without smartphones at all. They were born in a digital world, but it is taking a toll on their mental well-being.
> **K.R. MAALATHI**

UNESCO is urging governments to put learners first, and also urges policy-makers to draw up child data protection laws. We have written to the CBSE, the Department of Education, and even to the Home Minister to look into this and give us some kind of school safety policy. We should promote more face-to-face interaction to maintain academic integrity and to foster a healthy learning atmosphere.

K.R.M.: We are facing a very tough time with regard to mobile phones because children tend to lose sleep, addiction levels are very high, there are emotional, mental and behavioural issues. But blanket bans are rarely an effective way to solve a behavioural issue.

Teenagers do not know the world without smartphones at all. They were born in a digital world, but it is taking a toll on their mental well-being. Just like we have an age for a driving licence or a voter, we can actually have an age for this, because our job in schools is to prepare them for life, even to use a smartphone in a better way.

What are students saying? What is their perspective?

K.R.M.: Some of them agree that schools can be smartphone-free zones for their own benefit; others seek digital literacy and want to be sensitised to the pros and cons of smartphone usage. In the age of AI, most want to be made aware of how to smartly use devices.

J.A.: When you are dealing with the mindset of maybe 40 students sitting in a classroom, that's a very challenging situation. And they are in school for just six hours. Students are vulnerable to cyber bullying, comparisons, unrealistic standards, resulting in depression and a feeling of inadequacy. Prohibiting mobile phones during school hours will definitely offer students relief from these pressures.

Apart from the academic, social and behavioural perspectives, there is also an economic angle to this. Have you seen evidence of a digital divide?

J.A.: It might raise disparities among students belonging to various socio-economic backgrounds, because students with access to the latest expensive devices could experience an advantage, while those with limited resources might feel left out or stigmatised. The presence of mobile phones also increases the risk of theft, and schools may struggle to manage security.

What is happening in rural schools? Several governments are giving devices to students to bridge the digital divide. What kind of safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that that works out as a positive thing?

K.R.M.: A digital divide need not be addressed only by handing out a smartphone; it can be taken care of by laptops, tablets, iPads. We could even give internet facilities if teachers are trained how to use it. Before we give anything to the children, the adults around the children need to be sensitised.

There is a lot of difference in the way children learn today inside the classroom. When those who were born during COVID enter kindergarten, there is such a difference. These children have been watching social media and YouTube, through which they have learned so much before they could enter the kindergarten classrooms.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Uncivil election campaign

The 45th U.S. President has once again dragged the bar for civility in an election campaign down to the nadir that it was

Narayan Lakshman

This week, a video circulated on social media showing former U.S. President Donald Trump speaking at a public event, including a clip of him attacking Chris Christie, former New Jersey Governor and Republican rival seeking the party's nomination for the 2024 election, in uncivil terms. Mr. Trump responded to an audience member who allegedly described Mr. Christie as a "fat pig" and commented on his appetite as well as amplified the abusive phrase several times. In doing so, the 45th President has once again dragged the bar for civility in an election campaign down to the nadir that it was at in 2016 and again in 2020 - both elections that Mr. Trump led for his party.

While the past eight years of Mr. Trump the president and presidential candidate have witnessed his multi-pronged attacks on his political opponents, minorities of all hues, women, and even other nations - famously alluding to Mexicans as drug dealers, criminals, and rapists - the true death of civility in the modern era of American politics began during the term of his predecessor, Barack Obama.

In a sense, the very presence of Mr. Obama, the country's first ever non-white President, in the White House seemed to trigger an avalanche of resentment from White America, an unfortunate spectacle to which I had a ringside view as a Foreign Correspondent.

There is little doubt that Mr. Obama was catapulted into the Oval Office on a wave of euphoria and a deep-rooted desire for change, the spirit of which was captured in the Democrats' slogan for the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections – "Yes we can!" Yet as the epochal times of his first term in office rolled by, and the 44th president dared to seek to rewrite and rid of deadly inequities the DNA of the U.S. healthcare system, the triumphalism of multi-ethnic America gave way to the seething hatred of the insecure middle America, including mostly the white, non-college educated, working class demographic of the nation.

Out of this vector of racist bigotry was born the Tea Party, a far-right conservative movement that was willing to eschew political correctness in its entirety to achieve its goal of minimum government - against which it saw Obamacare, as encapsulated in the Affordable Care Act, as a deserving target for its attacks. While its agenda was explicitly political, the Tea Party literally set the stage for the later years of Trumpism by creating a space in the public discourse, howsoever repugnant to progressives, in which the policies of the Obama White House were deemed fair targets as much as minorities were, and racist epithets could be hurled about freely here.

Attacks on Obama

I encountered many a Tea Party member on the election trail in 2012, when mainstream Republican candidate Mitt Romney tried to take on the Obama election juggernaut. All the way from local campaign events in Virginia to the Republican National Convention in Florida, they almost universally sported yellow "Don't Tread On Me" t-shirts showing a coiled cobra ready to strike.

While their numbers were overwhelmingly comprised of ordinary middle class white Americans - kindly, smiling folk, who had the warmth and civility that one associated with Americans in general - if the conversation were ever to be steered towards Mr. Obama and his policy agenda, the sheer viciousness of verbal attacks on everything he stood for was unexpected, to say the least.

Yet it is evident now that that was only one plank of his nativist populism - the other being unhinged racism, dog-whistles to attacks on minorities, brazen anti-intellectualism and a wanton disregard of almost every institution of the rules-based international order, even those that had served U.S. national interests over the years.

Little surprise then that today, as Mr. Trump gears up to a blistering campaign this year and next, he has defied the campaign odds of multiple criminal indictments against him and enjoys soaring popularity in the polls. Indeed, he stands a decent chance of winning the White House and once again leaving his unique footprint on the shifting sands of the American collective psyche.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Enduring adversity, picking up the threads

People looking for their belongings during an anti-encroachment drive near the Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Government Medical College at Nalhar, in Nuh, Haryana. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1973

Zambia's Allegation

OTTAWA, Aug 10.
Tempers rose for the first time in the Commonwealth summit here last night over the Zambian press report alleging that Rhodesian troops had fired indiscriminately into African villages in north east Rhodesia in January.
Delegates reported that it was the most emotional session of the conference which was discussing the sensitive Rhodesian independence dispute and other Southern African racial issues.
The calm atmosphere of the meeting was quickly changed when the Barbados Prime Minister Mr. Errol Barrow produced a copy of a report in the Government owned "Zambian Mail" alleging that African women and children were wounded when Rhodesian troops opened indiscriminate fire on their villages and burned homes.
(In Salisbury a Rhodesian Government spokesman described the report as "utter nonsense".)
Speaking with evident emotion Mr. Barrow told the conference: "While we are sitting here discussing Rhodesia this sort of thing is going on there. It is time for action instead of pious talk."– Reuter

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1923

Harbour On Kathiawar Coast.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA
BOMBAY, August 10.
Good progress has already been made with the scheme of constructing a new harbour of Kathiawar coast not far from Dwarka. The site selected lies in a sheltering position where calm deep water obtains comparatively near the shore. It is within a mile of Adatara, the railhead of a new line. The scheme is estimated to cost about forty lakhs including the railway from Adatara to Dwaraka. The harbour will be able to deal with fairly good sized steamers and will establish a seaport within the territory of the Maharajah of Baroda and increase trade with Kathiawar.

From Page One

Peace will be restored in Manipur, PM tells LS

During the entire period, it was the Congress that was running the government, the Prime Minister added. He also said that the present BJP-led government in the State had till now made bombs and blockades a thing of the past and they were trying to find solutions with "sincere intent."

"The Opposition that has moved this motion is very selective in its pain and empathy. All of it starts with politics and ends with it," he said.

The Prime Minister added that unlike for the Opposition, for him, the northeast was his "*Jigar ka tukda*" (a piece of his heart), and mentioned that he had visited the area 50 times as Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers clocked over 400 visits.

He also enumerated the infrastructure and other development works done there by his government.

"Northeast can seem far to you, but I can visualise that a changing world order will see the rise of the ASEAN region and bring the northeast in focus," he said.

Attacks Congress

Continuing his blistering attack on the Congress, Mr. Modi recalled that it was the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who had used the Indian Air Force to bomb Mizoram and its own citizens in 1966, and deploy a military attack on the Akal Takht in 1984.

He said the Opposition had a fondness for using unseemly words and phrases for attacking him "and in this their favourite slogan is to say Modi, we will dig your grave". Mr. Modi's speech saw the Opposition shout slogans of "INDIA", the name of the new Opposition alliance, to counter the "Modi, Modi" slogans of the Treasury benches.

Mr. Modi termed the alliance "*ghamandia* [arrogant]", a play on INDIA bloc, and accused them of refusing to discuss Manipur separately for their own political ends despite the offer by Home Minister Amit Shah to do so. He said that those who spoke of "Bharat Mata" during the no-confidence motion (a reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) represented a party who did the "most to break India, even as it was gaining Independence".

With a nod to the regional parties that are part of the INDIA bloc, the Prime Minister said that even recently, DMK leaders from Tamil Nadu spoke of getting back Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka.

He also spoke of a 1962 radio broadcast of the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the Sino-Indian war where he said that his "heart goes out to the people of Assam", a sentence, added Mr. Modi, which still hurt the people "who were left to their fate in war".

The Prime Minister targeted the socialist parties such as the Janata Dal(U), current allies of the Congress, for tying up with the party when their ideological mentor, Ram Manohar Lohia had clearly stated that it was Nehru who was "deliberately keeping back the northeast" describing it as a "careless and dangerous thing to keep 30,000 square miles of territory in a cold storage".

'Try again in 2028'

Terming the alliance that brought the no-confidence motion against his government "arrogant, dynastic and corrupt," Mr. Modi added however, that no-confidence motions in the past had brought him luck as the last one in 2018 had seen the NDA return with a bigger majority.

"I ask the Opposition to try again in 2028," the Prime Minister said to laughter from the treasury benches.

Bill to remove CJI from panel to pick CEC, ECs

In March 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and the CJI. The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament.

Till the SC ruling, all election commissioners had been appointed by the President after recommendations by the government.

According to the Statement and Objectives of the Bill, in case there is no LoP in the Lower House of Parliament, the leader of the single largest Opposition party would be considered the LoP.

At first, a panel of five persons would be prepared for consideration of the selection committee, for appointment as the CEC and Election Commissioners.

The Opposition seized the opportunity and accused the government of diluting a Constitution Bench order.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal hit out at the government over the Bill, calling it a "blatant attempt at making the Election Commission a total puppet in the hands of the prime minister (Narendra Modi)".

"What about the Supreme Court's existing ruling which requires an impartial panel? Why does the prime minister feel the need to appoint a biased Election Commissioner? This is an unconstitutional, arbitrary and unfair Bill - we will oppose this on every forum," Mr. Venugopal said on X (formerly Twitter).

CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said that after negating the Supreme Court verdict on the powers of Delhi government, the Modi government has now diluted another SC Constitution bench judgment on appointment of Election Commissioners by replacing CJI with a Cabinet Minister chosen by the Prime Minister.

(With inputs from Sobhana K Nair)

Collegium proposes transfer of Gujarat HC judge to Patna

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the transfer of Gujarat High Court judge, Justice H.M. Prachchhak, to Patna High Court for "better administration of justice".

Justice Prachchhak had refused to stay the two-year conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed by Gujarat BJP lawmaker Purnesh Modi for the 'Modi surname' remarks in a political rally in 2019. The conviction was stayed by the Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, who is a member of the top court's collegium.

Justice Prachchhak is among nine High Court judges the Supreme Court Collegium proposed for transfer in a resolution arrived at on August 3, which was published late on Thursday.

The other Gujarat High Court judges recommended for transfer in the same batch were Justices A.Y. Kogje, K. Gita Gopi, Samir J. Dave to Allahabad, Madras and Rajasthan, respectively.

The Collegium has also recommended the transfer of Justice V.K. Singh of the Allahabad High Court to Madras; and Justices A.S. Sangwan, Avneesh Jhingan, R.M. Singh and Arun Monga, all of Punjab and Haryana High Court to Allahabad, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, respectively.

Plea rejected

Thecollegium has also proposed the transfer of Justice Duppala Venkata Ramana, judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, to the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The collegium refused his request for a transfer to the Karnataka High Court.

It has also proposed the transfer of Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Rajendra Kumar-IV, to Madhya Pradesh. The collegium declined his request to stay his transfer for six months.

The collegium recommended the transfer of Justice S.P. Kesarwani from the Allahabad High Court to Calcutta, while refusing to reconsider the move.

It proposed the transfer of Andhra Pradesh High Court judge, Justice C. Manavendranath Roy to Gujarat. His transfer request to Telangana was declined.

Woman alleges gang rape by Kuki men

Following her complaint, the police register an FIR; a memorandum demanding disarmament of civilians has been submitted to PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 37-year-old woman approached the police in Bishnupur of Manipur on Wednesday with a complaint that she was sexually assaulted in Churachandpur district on May 3.

Following the complaint, a zero first information report (FIR) was registered at the Bishnupur police station and transferred to the Churachandpur police station the same day.

The police have registered a case against "unknown Kuki miscreants" for gang rape and assault or criminal force to outrage the modesty of a woman with common intention.

Chain of events

The complaint said: "On May 3, around 6.30 p.m., the Kuki miscreants started burning down our house. So, I carried my niece on the back and also held my two sons and started running from the spot along with my sister-in-law. Then, I stumbled and fell down on the road and was unable to get up when I ran about half a km from my place. My sister-in-law came back running towards me and picked up my niece from my back and ran along with my two sons as I insisted. Subsequently, when I finally managed to get up, some 5/6 [five or six] Kuki miscreants got hold of me. Despite my resistance, I was forcefully pinned down. After this, the said men started sexually assaulting me...Thereafter some more Kuki miscreants joined them. At that time I lost my consciousness. Later when I regained my consciousness, I found myself in a house surrounded by some Meitei people."

She said she did not disclose the incident then to save the family's honour and dignity and to avoid social ostracism.

Meanwhile, 40 legislators from Manipur, who include Meitei and Naga members, submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding complete disarmament of civilians and transfer of Assam Rifles (battalions 9, 22 and 37) from their present location, replacing them with "trustworthy Central forces along with State security".

Extreme dismay: Police barricades on a deserted road at Torbung village in Churachandpur district of Manipur. REUTERS

10 Kuki-Zo MLAs request PM to retain Assam Rifles

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after 40 Manipur MLAs – Meitei and Naga – asked the Prime Minister to replace all units of Assam Rifles (operationally under the Indian Army) posted in the State with other units of Central security forces, 10 of the State's Kuki-Zo MLAs on Thursday sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), requesting that units of Assam Rifles (AR) remain where they are.

Both memoranda to the PMO were sent even as Eastern Army Commander Lt. General R.P. Kalita was on a two-day visit to Manipur.

He "discussed the current situation and future trajectory to restore peace" with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Security Adviser Kuldeep Singh", the Eastern Command of the Army said on X (formerly Twitter).

In a memorandum to the PMO, the Kuki-Zo MLAs said that the Assam Rifles's credibility is known to everyone and that the tribals of Manipur have "unwavering faith" in the Central forces.

J&K surrendered its sovereignty to India 'absolutely, completely': SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Limitations placed on the legislative power of Parliament cannot be construed to mean that J&K, unlike other princely states, retained its sovereignty
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a Constitution Bench hearing petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir ceded its sovereignty to the Dominion of India "absolutely and completely".

"It was no conditional surrender of sovereignty to the Dominion of India. The surrender of sovereignty was absolutely complete," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed orally.

The restraint on Parliament to enact certain laws in Jammu and Kashmir was akin to limitations on enacting laws on subjects on the State List of the Indian Constitution. Limitations placed on the legislative power of the Parliament cannot be construed to mean that Jammu and Kashmir, unlike other princely states which ceded to the Dominion and became full-fledged States under the Constitution, retained its sovereignty, the Chief Justice noted.

"Take the case of Indian States other than Jammu and Kashmir. There are restraints on the Parliament to enact on State subjects... The distribution of legislative power does not affect the fact that sovereignty vests in India. But merely because Parliament is disabled from touching a State List item while enacting a law, does not detract from the fact that all these States had once ceded their sovereignty to the Dominion of India," he observed on the fifth day of the marathon hearings.

The court was reacting to arguments that the "special autonomous status" granted to Jammu and Kashmir and retention of "residuary legislative powers" in the State were clear indications that Jammu and Kashmir retained an element of sovereignty.

The 'Delhi Agreement' by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Jawaharlal Nehru in 1952 had seen the Union government acquiesce that residuary legislative powers would vest with Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Centre, unlike the case with other States. The agreement had also empowered Jammu and Kashmir lawmakers to confer people domiciled there with special rights and privileges.

The Chief Justice referred to the Constitution (Application) Order of 1972 in which Parliament was granted exclusive powers to make laws to prevent activities threatening sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

INBRIEF

3 injured in an anti-militancy operation in Anantnag district

One soldier and two civilians were injured during an anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Thursday. Meanwhile, six militant supporters were arrested in the Kashmir Valley. Officials said a hiding militant threw a grenade in a bid to escape a search-and-cordon operation in the Athlan Gadole area of Kokernag, Anantnag district. "Three sustained splinter injuries in the attack," they said. The condition of the injured was stated to be stable.

'NC retains party symbol to contest Ladakh council polls'

The National Conference (NC) on Thursday, retained the party symbol to contest the upcoming hill council polls in Kargil district of Ladakh. "In a major victory for the party in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court today, the court ordered the Union Territory administration to allot the plough symbol for NC candidates to contest the hill council elections notified a few days ago," former Chief Minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said. Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory in 2019.

Veteran tribal leader Arvind Netam quits Congress

Alleging that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh was anti-tribal and asserting that he would now work on building a social movement centred on tribal rights, former Union Minister Arvind Netam resigned from the party on Thursday. In his resignation letter to All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge, the veteran leader from Bastar made a veiled attack on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, saying that the party's State leadership disappointed him and snatched tribal rights.

Aadhaar enrolment devices to get NavIC link

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Navigation with Indian Constellation or NavIC, the seven-satellite system that makes up India's version of the American GPS (global positioning system), will soon be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices across the country, the Department of Space (DoS) told the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology.

"The department has facilitated successful conduct of field trials, and is providing technical expertise in finalisation of procurement specification of the devices," it said in response to queries by the committee. The committee made its report public on Thursday. Currently, the Aadhaar enrolment kits that are used to collect and verify personal details are linked to GPS.

Govt. staff seek restoration of old pension scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Thousands of employees of the Union government and Central public sector undertakings, including the defence establishments, marched to Ramlila Maidan here on Thursday demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS).

After the protest rally, organised by the Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme, a platform of some 60 unions, the employees sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Modi stating that if the existing National Pension Scheme (NPS) is allowed to continue, employees recruited on or after January 1, 2004, will be "left in the lurch" after retirement.

The memorandum said that under the OPS, 50% of the last basic pay drawn by the employees was straightaway given as pension and the dearness allowance was revised twice based on inflation.

"In the NPS, there is no such defined and guaranteed pension, but it is only a defined contributory pension. This is in violation of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India, since on the basis of the date of appointment, the government employees have been divided into two classes, one group getting defined and guaranteed pension equivalent to 50% of their last pay drawn without any contribution, whereas the other group getting a meagre pension with contribution which depends on the vagaries of market," it said urging Mr. Modi to intervene to revive the OPS.

(With inputs from Garvita Shah)

SC questions role of PIL petitioners in Bilkis case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the need to entertain public interest litigation (PILs) petitions filed by "third parties" in a case in which the affected person, Bilkis Bano, herself filed a separate petition against the premature release of 11 men convicted of her gang rape and the deaths of seven persons during the Gujarat riots of 2002.

The question from a Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna came while hearing submissions on the *locus standi* of the petitioners.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, for one of the petitioners, said the apex court had itself, in the month of February 2023, granted the petitioners permission to participate in the proceedings.

APPEAL

Ms. Maniyar Sadaf Ansar, daughter of Shaikh Ansar Maniyar, 6 years admitted in Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital & Research Center is suffering from Thalassemia Major. She needs allogeneic bone marrow transplant. The approximate cost of the procedure would be **Rs. 10,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Maniyar Sadaf Ansar, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

NDA ally Mizo National Front backs no-trust motion

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Mizo National Front (MNF), a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partner and the ruling party in Mizoram, backed the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition alliance in Parliament against the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Mizoram's lone Lok Sabha member, C. Lalrosanga, said he supported the no-trust motion because of the Centre's poor handling of the Manipur situation and the push for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), but did not raise his hand when the voting took place in the House.

"We are extremely unhappy with the way the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has dealt with the situation in Manipur, where our brothers and sisters are badly affected and in distress," he said.

Why hasn't PM made any concrete statement on Manipur, asks Cong.

Party says Modi, gripped by a 'Congress phobia', left many questions on the State unanswered; Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury formally complains to Lok Sabha Speaker against the expunging of key words from Rahul Gandhi's speech in House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said that the Opposition had managed to get Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the floor of the Lok Sabha, but questions regarding justice for the people of Manipur remained unanswered as Mr. Modi is gripped by a "Congress phobia".

Addressing presspersons after walking out of the Lok Sabha after about 90 minutes into the Prime Minister's speech, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the House Gaurav Gogoi – who had moved the no-trust motion – said that the Prime Minister had been speaking only about his party and the Opposition, rather than focusing on Manipur in his two-hour-long speech.

After the debate: Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi coming out of Parliament on Thursday. Opposition leaders staged a walkout during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech. PTI

"... In these two hours, all he did was to twist the name of our country – India. There is a Congress-phobia inside that we can see because the Prime Minister spent most of his time blaming the Congress party," Mr. Gogoi said. He accused the BJP of "fake nationalism" and being "unpatriotic".

"Why hasn't the Prime Minister made any plans to go to Manipur? Why hasn't the Prime Minister made any concrete statement on Manipur? Why hasn't he asked his Chief Minister to resign? It is only the arrogance which makes them blind to the pain of Manipur people, that Rahul Gandhi *ji* alluded to in his speech," Mr. Gogoi said.

Rahul's reaction

Earlier, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury formally complained to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for expunging some key words from Mr. Gandhi's speech. Mr. Gandhi had said that the politics of the BJP in Manipur is akin to taking away the life of Bharat Mata.

"Apparently, Bharat Mata is an unparliamentary word in India nowadays," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons when asked about his comments being expunged from the records of Parliament.

'Disheartening blow': Amit Shah's remarks draw sharp reactions from Kuki groups

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In Parliament, he said Kuki immigrants from Myanmar were contributing to tensions in Manipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks in Parliament about Kuki immigrants from Myanmar contributing to tensions in Manipur, drew sharp reactions from Kuki groups – both in India and in Myanmar – on Thursday.

The Manipur Tribals' Forum, Delhi (MTFD), called Mr. Shah's remarks a "disheartening blow" and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) called it "plain wrong" to blame "helpless and deprived" refugees. Further, the Kuki National Organisation (Burma) wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, clarifying that there was no Kuki outfit in the country called Kuki Democratic Front, as claimed by Mr. Shah in his speech.

The Kuki National Organisation (KNO), in its letter, noted that while they are "constantly under tremendous pressure to indulge in other distractions like the ethnic problem in Manipur", it has its hands full fighting the junta in Myanmar and could not afford to "look for adventures in India". Insisting that there was no movement of any of its units from Myanmar into Indian territory, the president of the KNO requested the Lok Sabha Speaker to clarify this to Parliament.

A day ago when Mr. Shah intervened in Parliament on the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition, he said that after the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, an outfit called the Kuki Democratic Front had started putting up a fight against the junta.

He said that this conflict in the neighbouring "Brahmadesh" (Myanmar) had led to a lot of Kuki people crossing over to India in Manipur for their safety, as the International Border in the State is under a Free Movement Regime.

This influx, he said, had contributed to insecurity among the majority population of Manipur – the Meiteis – about purported large-scale demographic changes.

Reacting to Mr. Shah's speech, Chinkhanlun Guite of the MTFD told *The Hindu*, "These remarks reinforce hateful claims of Meiteis against Kuki-Zo people in Manipur and will only spell danger for our people there." Mr. Guite said that Mr. Shah's remarks on Kuki immigrants put together with his defence of Mr. Biren was rhetoric that pointed to a "red herring". Mr. Guite went on to question how immigrants fleeing from the junta in Myanmar could engineer such incidents when the government is already registering and tracking them.

Despite the months of violence, the ITLF said Mr. Singh was being "feted by the Central government instead of being sacked. We appeal to the Home Minister to rise above party politics in dealing with the crisis in Manipur".

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury suspended from Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was suspended from the Lok Sabha on Thursday for "unruly conduct and causing repeated disturbances". His case was sent to the privileges committee.

Mr. Chowdhary will remain suspended till the committee takes a decision. This effectively means that there is no timeline for his reinstatement. This is possibly the first time that the Leader of the largest Opposition Party in the Lok Sabha has been suspended in the recent past.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi moved the resolution, which was passed by a voice-vote.

During his speech, Mr. Chowdhary, while referring to the Mahabharata, had said that the king should not be blind to what is happening against women, whether it is in Hastinapur or Manipur.

His comments evoked a sharp reaction from Union Home Minister Amit Shah who urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to ask Mr. Chowdhary to exercise restraint. Certain sections of his remarks were expunged by the Speaker.

BJP MP Virendra Singh apologised to the Chair for his reaction during Mr. Chowdhary's speech.

On the Draw

Shaming or demeaning women is a concern for all: Finance Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, participating in the no-confidence motion debate in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, said India's economy was in a unique position to achieve future growth. She also spoke about the steps taken by the government to control food inflation.

Ms. Sitharaman rebutted the points raised by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) members during the no-trust debate.

Responding to DMK member Kanimozhi's speech on the Manipur issue, Ms. Sitharaman said she would like to remind her about which happened on March 25, 1989 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly when the sari of the then Leader of the Opposition, Jayalalithaa, was pulled. "It is a very sacred sabha, the Leader of the Opposition Jayalalithaa's sari was pulled in the Assembly. Her sari was pulled and the DMK members sitting there heckled her, laughed at her and made fun of her...", she said. "That party which was in power at that time sitting in the House today talks of Draupadi."

Nirmala Sitharaman

Referring to the Manipur incident, she said shaming or demeaning women was a concern for all whether it was in Manipur, Rajasthan or Delhi and should be taken seriously.

***Sengol* issue**

Making extensive reference to Tamil Nadu, she raised the issue of the *Sengol* (sceptre) and said, "It was kept in some kind of museum. Is it not an insult to Tamil pride? So when the honourable Prime Minister restored it to its rightful place in the Lok Sabha, it became an issue... This is an insult to Tamils."

Ms. Sitharaman answered DMK leader T.R. Baalu's query about the Centre borrowing money from Japan for construction of the AIIMS, Madurai, and said delay in land acquisition by the State government escalated the cost. Soon after her reply, DMK members and other Opposition MPs walked out, saying the Minister was "misleading" the House.

On steps to control prices of tomatoes, Ms. Sitharaman said additional procurement was being done from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Talking about the economic situation, she said while the UPA government used to sell dreams to people, the Modi government fulfilled them.

Scindia takes aim at former friend and Congress leader Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP leader and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was scathing in his criticism of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance or INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

He accused the alliance of using the violence in Manipur as a "launch pad", and blamed his previous party, the Congress, for the problems in the northeastern State. "All problems in NE started with appeasement politics of the Congress when they allowed intruders inside the border," he said.

Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the Prime Minister does not consider Manipur a part of India, Mr. Scindia said, "Seeing (regions of) India as different parts is your thought process, not ours."

"In the temple of democracy, we are where the country's 140 crore take inspiration from. It is clear that these people [Opposition] do not care about the post of PM or India or the post of President but just care about their status," he added.

Taking a dig at Mr. Gandhi's '*Mohabbat ki dukaan*' slogan, the Minister said the shop has "corruption, lies, appeasement and arrogance". "You have changed the name of the *dukaan* (shop) but you are selling the same thing," Mr. Scindia added.

Owaisi raises issues of minorities, flags 'atmosphere of hate', mob lynchings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi and Trinamool Congress's Mahua Moitra made sharp interventions during the no-confidence debate on Thursday by raising issues of minorities and majoritarian politics.

Referring to the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) front as "*chowkidar*" and the Opposition front as "*dukandar*" (store owner), Mr. Owaisi said neither front opens its mouth when minorities are oppressed. From calling Bilkis Bano's rapists *sanskari* (cultured) to previous instances of Muslims being mob-lynched to the more recent incident of a Railway Protection Force constable opening fire on Muslim passengers, the AIMIM leader said an atmosphere of hate was prevalent.

Asaduddin Owaisi

"I want to know from the government if this is not an excellent example of radicalism and extremism? If it is so what is the government going to do about it," he said.

In a stinging attack, Ms. Moitra said the Opposition bloc has been forced to bring a motion "not to bring down anything but to resurrect something – to resurrect India's founding principles of equality and secularism which this government has buried six-feet under..."

"This motion is to break *omertà*, this code of silence in Manipur, the most pressing issue of the day on which we are all supposed to '*chup* raho' [stay silent]," she said.

In Manipur, the BJP's "majoritarian bravado" is destroying a State and tearing apart its people, Ms. Moitra alleged.

KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CORPORATION OFFICE, PB.No.1016
ERNAKULAM, KOCHI-682011
ISO/MOE4/26035/23 10.08.2023
Notice inviting Expression of Interest

Kochi Municipal Corporation is seeking qualified firm(s) to supply, provide Operation & Maintenance for 5 years of the following machines listed below.
1. Machine for open canal de-silting(1No)
2. Self propelled machine for road sweeping(1No)
3.Machine for Fortkochi beach cleaning(1 No)
4.Machine for de-silting of drains with recycler(4000 lts) (4 Nos)
5.Machine for cleaning of canal, weed removal with dredging capabilities (1 No)
6. Machine for pothole patching(2 Nos)

The EOI documents details can be downloaded from www.lsgkerala.gov.in, http://etender.kerala.gov.in., WINDOW NO : C 203665/2023. Qualified firms with adequate resources, experience and track record interested in the projects are requested to submit their respective Expression of Interest (EOI) including specifications of their proposed machines before **5PM on 21st August 2023**.
Firms shall submit for one/many/ all the above required machines. It is reiterated that this process is only precursor to identify best suitable latest machines available before the tendering process.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Kochi Municipal Corporation

Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited APSFL

Proposals are invited from interested agencies for the RfPs for Selection of agency for installation of Energy Meters at GPs of BBNL Project in **a)** Ananthapuram **b)** East Godavari **c)** Guntur **d)** Kadapa **e)** Krishna **f)** Kurnool **g)** Nellore **h)** Prakasam **i)** Srikakulam **j)** Visakhapatnam **k)** Vizianagaram **l)** West Godavari Districts. Details of the RfPs and Corrigenda may be downloaded from e-procurement platform **tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
DIPR 2262PP/CL, Dt: 10-08-2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. V/TRD-OT/7/2023-24 DATED 09/08/2023

	Item no.1	Item no.2
Name of work	TVC Division Outsourcing of PSI maintenance activities of 25 kV Traction Sub-station at Eranakulam(ERS) for two years	TVC Division Outsourcing of PSI maintenance activities of 25 kV Traction Sub-station at Kazhakuttam(KZK) for two years.
Tender Value	₹ 36,22,528.23/-	₹ 21,94,040.89/-
EMD	₹ 72,500/-	₹ 43,900/-
Completion period	2 years	2 years

Date & Time of tender closing: **04.09.2023 14.00Hrs**
Complete details and tender document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in.**
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Online application is mandatory
https://www.ada.gov.in
https://rac.gov.in

REQUIREMENT OF PROJECT ENGINEERS

Advt. Ref No. : ADA:ADV-123 **30.06.2023**

ADA is an Autonomous Organization under the Dept. of Defence R & D, Ministry of Defence (MOD), Government of India, entrusted with the design and development of both the Air Force and Naval versions of Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas) and LCA Mark-II. ADA has also taken up the design of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) as well as other advanced technology developmental projects of Government of India.

2. ADA invites online applications to the post of **'Project Engineer' (PE)** in various levels on 'Defined Limited Tenure Basis'. **Minimum Qualification:** Bachelor's Degree in Engineering in First Class from a recognized University. Details on Vacancy, age, minimum experience required and remuneration is given below.

Requirement	Minimum Experience Essential	Consolidated remuneration per month (Rs.)	Vacancy	Maximum Age (as on closing date of the online registration & submission of application)
PE-1	2 years	50,000 + Dearness Allowance*	40	35
PE-2	4 years	60,000 + Dearness Allowance*	9	45
PE-3	8 years	70,000 + Dearness Allowance*	4	55
		Total Vacancies	**53**	

** Dearness Allowance is payable on the consolidated remuneration at the rate of 50% (Fifty Percent) of DA as announced by Central Government for its employees from time to time*

3. Interested candidates may visit ADA website **https://www.ada.gov.in** or RAC Website: **https://rac.gov.in** for full details of the Advertisement, reservation of posts and online registration of applications. Registration of applications on ADA / RAC website will be accepted from **10 am onwards on 11th August, 2023** upto **16.00 Hrs.** on **08th September, 2023.**

Director (Admin & HR)
ADA

INBRIEF

Two elephants die in separate collisions with freight trains

Two elephants died on Thursday in collisions with freight trains in two separate locations under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). A spokesperson said the first incident took place between Chalsa and Nagrakata stations in northern West Bengal at 2.40 a.m. The second incident took place at 7.10 a.m. on the Digaru-Panbari stretch in Assam. The area is under the Lumding division. "We have taken serious note of these incidents and have alerted all the elephant corridors within the NFR area," Sabyasachi De, the spokesperson said.

Tushar Gandhi files complaint against Bhide for his remarks

Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, on Thursday lodged a police complaint in Pune against radical Hindutva leader Sambhaji Bhide for his alleged derogatory remarks against Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Bhide had been accused of making the offensive remarks in Amravati district of Maharashtra in July. Mr. Gandhi accused Mr. Bhide of being a "habitual offender" who consistently sought to heighten social tensions by making defamatory and divisive remarks about historical personalities.

India, Japan studying ways to restart trilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka

Conference discusses possible collaborations on infrastructure and investment, with lessons learnt after cancellation of projects by previous Gotabaya government; both countries had come to the island nation's rescue during last year's crisis

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

More than two years after Sri Lanka cancelled a joint India-Japan MoU for the East Container Terminal (ECT) project in Colombo, the three countries are studying ways of restarting trilateral cooperation, envoys at a conference said in New Delhi on Thursday.

The cancellation of the MoU, estimated at about $500 million, and the suspension of the Japanese-funded light rail transit (LRT) project by the previous Gotabaya Rajapaksa government, had led to a freeze in ties between Tokyo and Colombo.

With India and Japan coming to Sri Lanka's rescue during last year's economic crisis, and offering assistance with Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process, the Ranil Wickremesinghe government has also sought the return of infrastructure project plans and investment from both countries. This was the message sent during President Wickremesinghe's visit to Delhi last month, and to Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi, who visited New Delhi and Colombo last week.

Infra push: The East Terminal of the Colombo port. Two years ago, Sri Lanka had cancelled a joint MoU with India and Japan. AFP

"Some projects in Sri Lanka which were to be executed jointly by India and Japan did not progress due to several reasons, but that should not deter us in exploring new cooperation. India and Japan share a vision of a Free Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific [FOIP], which is of relevance to all countries in the region including Sri Lanka," Puneet Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Ministry, said at the conference on trilateral cooperation organised by the think tanks NatStrat and the Vivekananda International Foundation from India and Pathfinder Foundation of Sri Lanka.

The conference was based on a paper released by the Pathfinder Foundation, started by Sri Lanka's envoy to India Milinda Moragoda, that suggests that India and Japan can work together on renewable energy and grid connectivity projects, development of Trincomalee as an oil pipeline hub, connectivity and people-centric projects. Addressing the conference, Mr. Moragoda said that the projects discussed were part of the "Joint Economic Vision Statement" released by Mr. Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on July 21. However, during their talks, the two leaders had concurred that while the projects would be "catalysed" by Indian and Sri Lankan governments, they would encourage the private sector to lead the investment and execution of them.

"If you envisage this whole package, it goes into billions of dollars. And I don't think the Indian private sector alone can do this – there needs to be a partnership... So if we can now bring Japan in and work together,that can be the way forward for them," said Mr. Moragoda.

Officials said it is "early to say" whether India and Japan will execute projects in Sri Lanka jointly as they had planned pre-2020, or in "close coordination" instead, as they have with Bangladesh. However, joint MoUs are unlikely, given the problems they earlier faced in Sri Lanka. The ECT MoU shelved in 2021 was turned over to a Chinese company, and the Adani Group was handed the West Container Terminal project nearby, leading to even more unhappiness in Tokyo, that had felt "cut out of" projects by the Gotabaya government.

Japan's Ambassador to India Hiroshi Suzuki said that Japan was keen to work with India on projects in South Asia. Making a particular reference to Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process, he said that a necessary condition was that Sri Lanka would treat all creditors equally.

(With inputs from Meera Srinivasan at Colombo)

'Nuh violence well-planned to garner poll dividends'

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A CPI(M) delegation has described the communal clashes in Nuh as "well-orchestrated" to garner electoral dividends in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The party sought a judicial probe into the violence under High Court supervision.

The CPI(M) delegation, led by Polit Bureau member Nilotpal Basu, included Rajya Sabha members A.A. Rahim and V. Shivadasan, and Haryana State secretariat member Inderjit Singh.

"The Mewat region is known for perfect communal harmony," said a press statement.

A CPI delegation last week was stopped by the police at the Nuh border. They demanded a thorough probe.

The delegation comprised CPI Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam, All India Trade Union Congress general- secretary Amarjit Kaur, P. Sandosh Kumar, MP, and CPI Haryana Secretary Dariyao Singh Kashyap.

Doctors can choose not to treat unruly patients: NMC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Doctors can now refuse treatment to unruly and violent patients by following a new protocol.

In such cases, the doctors have been told to properly document and report the said violence, their refusal and referral of the patient to other health facilities, noted the National Medical Commission's (NMC) gazette notification, which notified the NMC Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations 2023.

These regulations prescribe a code of ethics to be adopted by every practitioner of modern medicine who is registered under the NMC Act and is practising.

The National Medical Commission Registered Medical Practitioner RMP (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023 will replace the Medical Council of India's (MCI) Code of Medical Ethics 2002.

Rajya Sabha adjourned in 36 minutes as Opposition, govt. spar over Rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha functioned for 36 minutes on Thursday morning, spending a significant time debating the rule under which a discussion on Manipur should be held but adjourning without any consensus. Indicating a complete breakdown in communications between the Treasury and the Opposition benches, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal revealed the details of a closed-door discussion between the two sides when the Opposition moved a resolution on Manipur under Rule 167 in what was supposed to be the agreed "middle path".

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar informed the House that he had received notices under three sets of Rules – 267, 176 and 167. Forty-eight notices were moved under 267 out of which 45 pertained to a demand for holding debate on Manipur. Shiv Sena (Uddhav) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and AAP MP Sushil Gupta in their notices also demanded a debate on communal violence in Haryana. And DMK member P. Wilson wanted a debate on the Governor's powers. All the notices were rejected for being not in conformity with the Rules.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in Parliament on Thursday. PTI

Another 19 notices were received for a short-duration discussion under Rule 176. And three notices, under Rule 167, were moved by Tiruchi Siva of the DMK, Elamaram Kareem of the CPI(M) and Binoy Viswam on the CPI Manipur. To break the impasse between the two sides over the Rule position in the August 3 meeting, a consensus was built to tread the middle path – of moving a "mutually negotiated" resolution on Manipur under Rule 167.

Angry with the Opposition for "unilaterally" moving the resolution without consulting the Treasury benches, Mr. Goyal launched a blistering attack on the Opposition. "They wanted a informal meeting to find the way out, I invited four Opposition leaders to meet me over a cup of tea in my room, but they refused. They could not walk to my room, therefore, I along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi went to Mallikarjun Kharge's room," he said, even as Chairman Mr. Dhankhar tried to dissuade him from revealing contents of discussion outside the House. Mr. Dhankhar said the middle path now offered under Rule 167 should be taken up, but Mr. Goyal was not convinced.

Mr. Kharge reiterated that the Opposition was ready for debate whenever required but underlined that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence was essential. The House was adjourned after both sides erupted in protests.

Congress Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh posted on X (formerly Twitter), "The Chairman is making every effort to break the logjam. INDIA parties have even offered to sit with those deputed by the BJP to arrive at a mutually acceptable draft if need be. But the Modi Govt. is obstinate – it is simply my way or the highway. And of course, it is adamant that the PM will not speak on Manipur in the Rajya Sabha."

Soon, AI will allow you make a UPI payment using voice

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

In a move to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) more user-friendly, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed incorporating Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features, to enable digital payments through voice commands.

The RBI also announced plans to enhance the transaction limit for small-value digital payments in offline mode from ₹200 to ₹500 with the overall limit being retained at ₹2,000 per payment instrument to contain the risks associated with relaxation of two-factor authentication.

"As AI is becoming increasingly integrated into the digital economy, conversational instructions hold immense potential in enhancing ease of use, and consequently reach, of the UPI system. It is, therefore, proposed to launch an innovative payment mode viz., 'Conversational Payments' on UPI," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on Thursday.

The feature will first be available in English and Hindi.

It will enable users to engage in a conversation with an AI-powered system to "initiate and complete transactions in a safe and secure environment".

"While payments through QR code are easy for everyone, the introduction of 'Conversational Payments' on UPI has the potential to take ease of payments to the next level. Those who find it difficult to navigate through a mobile application for making payments or want to save time will now be able to execute transactions with ease," Mandar Agashe, founder & MD, Sarvatra Technologies, said.

The facility will initially be available in Hindi and English and will subsequently be made available in more Indian languages.

Rahul Jain, chief financial officer, NTT DATA Payment Services India, said, "This not only highlights the potential for 'Make-in-India' solutions to gain global recognition, particularly in technology-driven nations where AI is pervasive but also highlights India's pioneering role in the digital payments' domain. The chatbot will play a pivotal role by providing the user with a direct payment link or QR code," Mr. Jain added.

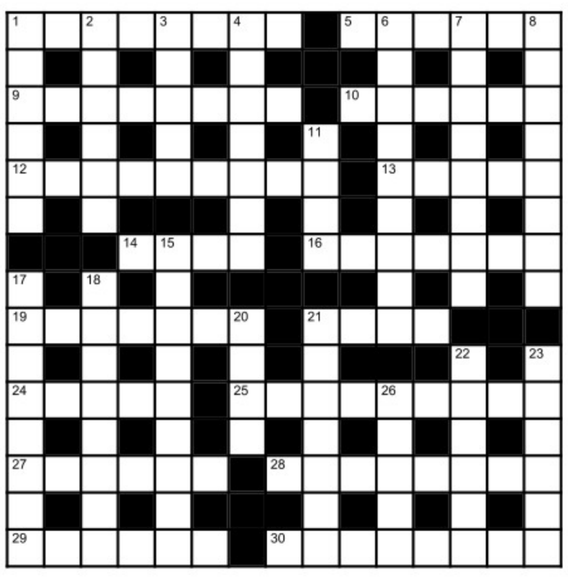
In yet another improvement to the UPI ecosystem and to promote UPI-Lite, the RBI is planning to facilitate offline transactions using near field communication technology. "This feature will not only enable retail digital payments in situations where Internet or telecom connectivity is weak or not available, it will also ensure speed with minimal transaction declines," the RBI said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13941

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One to understand that girl (8)
5 Nervous of short hairstyle - help! (6)
9 See veins wrinkled with maturity (8)
10 Teams joke about netting ball (6)
12 Testament's foremost apostle caught in pouring rain getting protective cover (9)
13 WHO had identified partially backward US state (5)
14 See 16
16 & 14 Swear words exchanged during a match? (7,4)
19 A vessel containing mostly cereal and fruit (7)
21 Advanced fast (4)
24 Virus seen in Quebec's central taxi service (5)
25 Study blood pressure (9)
27 A second-grade path in a foreign country (6)
28 A bit contrarian, worthless source of information (8)
29 Due to miss the opener in finale (6)
30 Support say, Queen's open form of communication (8)

Down

1 Go without worry, in peace (6)
2 Rule of king over nation (6)
3 Least ambiguous unit of measurement (5)
4 Design first of luxurious, intricate covers with gold (7)
6 Pro to wait carrying drinks for starters? No, not acceptable (9)
7 A dreamy person forgetting name like "Rosemary", say (8)
8 Force out duck crossing one small lake (8)
11 Experience denial in conversation (4)
15 Canoe scrambled to win for a second time (4,5)
17 Fine material's price is cut (8)
18 Provided with weapons to ultimately murder a criminal (8)
20 Time to show sensitivity (4)
21 Aging, heartless phoney occupying throne in the distant past (4,3)
22 Mothers like spicy mixture (6)
23 Bum, rude and most illiterate (6)
26 Healthy breakfast food cheers, perhaps (5)

SUDOKU

8			7					5
	6			5			7	
			6			1	9	
		8						6
3			5		7			8
9						5		
	4	1			2			
	8			6			4	
6					4			2

No.SS5885 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	M		B		A		C		U		E	
S	O	Y	A		G	R	O	U	N	D	N	U	T
	L		K		O		C		D		V		O
T	E	L	U	G	U		O	N	E	B	Y	O	N	E
	H				T		N		R				I	
T	I	R	A	M	I	S	U		S	C	O	T	C	H
	L		D				T		E		L			
A	L	A	D	D	I	N		M	A	R	I	N	E	S
			E		N		E				V		S	
C	A	N	D	L	E		S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S
	B				D		C		E				I	
D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H		S	E	S	A	M	E
	T		W		B		E		O		O		A	
	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R		B	Y	T	E
			S		E		S		T		S		E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	7	5	3	9	2	4	1
4	9	1	2	6	8	5	3	7
2	3	5	4	1	7	9	8	6
9	1	6	7	2	3	4	5	8
7	5	4	8	9	6	3	1	2
3	2	8	1	4	5	6	7	9
5	4	9	6	8	1	7	2	3
6	8	2	3	7	4	1	9	5
1	7	3	9	5	2	8	6	4

FAITH

Seek Vidya and Vinaya

The first chapter of the Bhagavad Gita does not carry any of Lord Krishna's teachings; however, it highlights the importance of the right attitude and proper communication, said Avanti Kundaliya in a lecture.

Sanjaya has been blessed with divine sight by sage Vyasa to relate the proceedings on the distant battlefield to his blind monarch, Dhritarashtra. His choice of words at the beginning of his narration, "King Duryodhana approached the teacher," clearly depicts his disdain for Duryodhana's lack of reverence for Dronacharya.

Vidya (knowledge) and Vinaya (humility) go hand in hand in the acquisition and, most importantly, successful use of any education one may gain. However learned or accomplished one may think one is, without due reverence toward the teacher, that knowledge remains theoretical and achieves no lasting material or spiritual benefit in the world. After pompously striding up to Dronacharya's chariot, Duryodhana starts introducing the members of his army, boasting, "They are all ready to give up their lives for my sake." By exhibiting such arrogance, Duryodhana not only belittles himself before his mentor and guide, but goes into a downward spiral of incoherent chatter that reveals his guilt disguised as utter dread that he is so desperately trying to conceal.

INBRIEF

Ola Cabs' loss widens to ₹3,082 crore in FY22: Tofler

Ride-hailing company Ani Technologies Pvt. Ltd., popularly known as Ola Cabs, reported loss widening to ₹3,082 crore in 2021-22, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. The company's losses have more than doubled on a year-over-year basis, the data showed. "Ani Technologies Pvt. Ltd., an online transportation network company (popularly known as Ola Cabs), reported its revenues for the 2021-22 financial year at ₹1,350 crore, a 49% jump since the last financial year," Tofler said. "The company further reported a net loss of ₹3,082 crore during the fiscal," Tofler added. PTI

SAT partly sets aside SEBI order in NSE dark-fibre case

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has partly set aside a SEBI order directing the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to disgorge ₹62.6 crore, along with interest, in the dark-fibre case. However, all other orders passed against NSE, including a periodic review of its co-location facility, were upheld. SAT also quashed SEBI's direction barring NSE's former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna from holding any managerial positions in a market intermediary for three years and three other former officials - Ravi Varanasi, Nagendra Kumar and Devi Prasad Singh - for a period of two years. PTI

'Not unduly concerned about Russian G-sec investments'

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Reserve Bank was not "unduly concerned" about the Russian investments in Indian government bonds. Without sharing the details of the trade surplus invested by Russian entities in government securities (G-secs), Mr. Das underlined that trade relations between the two countries were for the long term and there was no reason to fear a pullout of the money. In May this year, the IBA had said that Russia was investing the surplus it earned out of oil sales to India in G-secs, but market estimates on the quantum varied from $10-22 billion. PTI

MPC holds rates, lifts FY24 inflation forecast to 5.4%; retains growth view

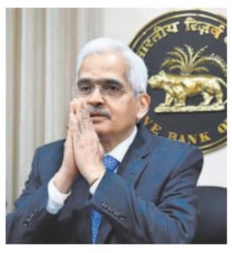
Reserve Bank Governor Das says domestic economic activity is holding up well and is likely to retain its momentum, despite weak external demand; monetary policy panel decided to remain watchful and evaluate the emerging situation

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hold extended

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee leaves policy interest rate unchanged for a third straight meeting

- Majority of 5 MPC members opts to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation aligns with the target, while supporting growth
- MPC retains its projection for real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%
- RBI says that with effect from fortnight of Aug. 12, banks to maintain incremental CRR of 10%



The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% even as it raised the projection for retail inflation in the current fiscal year by 30 basis points to 5.4%.

The MPC also decided by a majority of 5 out of 6 members to stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth.

"Headline inflation, after reaching a low of 4.3% in May 2023, rose in June and is expected to surge during July-August led by vegetable prices," observed RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, explaining the MPC's rationale.

"While the vegetable price shock may reverse quickly, possible El Niño weather conditions along with global food prices need to be watched closely against the backdrop of a skewed south-west monsoon so far. These developments warrant a heightened vigil on the evolving inflation trajectory.

"The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points undertaken by the MPC is working its way into the economy. Nonetheless, domestic economic activity is holding up well and is likely to retain its momentum, despite weak external demand," Mr. Das added.

The MPC retained its projection for real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%.

The CPI inflation projection for 2023-24, assuming a normal monsoon, was revised upwards to 5.4% from the 5.1% forecast in June, with Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2%.

To address the problem of excess liquidity with banks, the RBI decided that with effect from the fortnight beginning August 12, scheduled banks would maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.

"This measure is intended to absorb the surplus liquidity generated by various factors including the return of ₹2000 notes to the banking system," Mr. Das said. "This is purely a temporary measure for managing the liquidity overhang. Even after this temporary impounding, there will be adequate liquidity in the system to meet the credit needs of the economy," he added.

'Just 1% of 98,000 recognised start-ups given I-T exemptions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Only 10,165, or 10.4%, of 98,119 recognised start-ups have even applied for the tax exemptions

Just 1% of the more than 98,000 start-ups recognised by the Commerce and Industry Ministry have been able to avail Income Tax exemptions six years after the benefit was announced, prompting a Parliamentary panel to ask the Centre to relax the norms and clarify the process.

The Department Related Standing Committee on Commerce, in a report on the start-up ecosystem, also expressed concern that only 10,165, or 10.4%, of the 98,119 recognised start-ups had even applied for the tax exemptions.

Moreover, a 'staggering 75% of the applications' were being sent back for 'resubmission,' indicating lack of clarity among start-ups on the process.

Use of Sec 80-IAC

Expressing concern over the low utilisation of Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, implemented in 2017, the panel noted an inter-Ministerial board has granted the Certificate of Eligibility to only 1,173 applicants as on March 31.

Urging the government to review the norms so that more start-ups could avail the tax benefits, the Committee also urged the Department of Commerce to work with stakeholders and the Finance Ministry to ensure the residual concerns over the Angel Tax on start-up funding were resolved.

"The Committee is also of the view that the methodology adopted to ascertain the Fair Market Value of shares needs to be unambiguous as it influences taxation for domestic or foreign investment.

"A decision to remove the confusion in this regard is required to be taken in consultation with all the stakeholders," the Standing Committee members recommended.

RBI rightly cautious on inflation: SBI chief

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Dinesh Khara

State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara said the RBI policy communication was nuanced, and rightly exercised caution on the inflation trajectory given the current jump in vegetable prices.

"With capacity utilisation currently running higher than the long-term trend, the central bank does have the bandwidth to look through the current increase in food prices," he said in his comments on the monetary policy.

Ashu Khullar, CEO, Citi India, said, "RBI's status-quo policy with a balanced rhetoric around it, is likely to ease any market fears of a knee-jerk monetary policy reaction to the vegetable price-led spike in near-term inflation."

"At the same time, the RBI's views on resilience of domestic growth outlook in a challenging global environment is comforting. We would expect the stability in policy rates to continue for a longish period, which will support growth and inflation objectives."

'EPFO invested ₹13,017 cr. in ETFs'

Retirement fund body EPFO has invested ₹13,017 crore in exchange traded funds (ETFs) in the April-July period of FY24, Parliament was informed.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,688	-0.47
US Dollar	82.66	0.22
Gold	59,800	-0.41
Brent oil	87.16	-0.08

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2552.40	45.30
Adani Ports	802.80	11.70
Apollo Hosp	4922.50	-58.85
Asian Paints	3237.90	-93.10
Axis Bank	939.75	-10.25
Bajaj Auto	4636.60	-29.95
Bajaj Finserv	1519.40	2.80
Bajaj Finance	7143.85	18.50
Bharti Airtel	874.80	-8.90
BPCL	362.65	2.30
Britannia Ind	4540.45	-60.45
Cipla	1258.95	-7.10
Coal India	234.90	0.15
Divis Lab	3745.50	7.80
Dr Reddys Lab	5851.15	-19.85
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3414.70	2.10
Grasim Ind	1830.30	-15.35
HCL Tech	1134.30	-9.85
HDFC Bank	1635.85	-14.65
HDFC Life	640.00	-5.80
Hero MotoCorp	3035.90	-23.80
Hindalco	468.90	0.00
Hind Unilever	2536.70	-15.50
ICICI Bank	964.10	-8.60
IndusInd Bank	1430.20	21.75
Infosys	1389.10	-5.30
ITC	451.75	-6.90
JSW Steel	831.50	8.05
Kotak Bank	1800.85	-30.65
L&T	2643.50	-8.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5106.55	2.35
M&M	1545.40	10.65
Maruti Suzuki	9397.60	-65.50
NestleIndia	21989.75	-228.65
NTPC	217.40	-1.30
ONGC	178.65	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	241.80	1.45
Reliance Ind	2536.45	11.25
SBI Life	1334.35	-15.00
State Bank	573.65	-0.10
Sun Pharma	1150.30	-2.50
TataConsumer Product	850.55	-9.65
Tata Motors	618.25	-4.30
Tata Steel	120.00	-0.20
TCS	3442.10	-20.40
Tech Mahindra	1235.80	7.80
Titan	2988.55	32.65
UltraTech Cement	8102.20	-9.05
UPL	609.65	-5.55
Wipro	418.65	0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.51	82.83
Euro	90.98	91.34
British Pound	105.39	105.81
Japanese Yen (100)	57.38	57.60
Chinese Yuan	11.45	11.49
Swiss Franc	94.51	94.89
Singapore Dollar	61.32	61.57
Canadian Dollar	61.57	61.81
Malaysian Ringitt	18.05	18.13
Australian Dollar	54.15	54.36

Source:Indian Bank

Chemplast Sanmar posts ₹28 cr. loss in Q1

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The newly inaugurated block at the Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division.

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. posted a first-quarter standalone net loss of ₹28 crore against a profit of ₹39 crore in the year-earlier period due to sluggish demand globally and "excessive dumping" by China.

Revenue from operations contracted 39% to ₹350 crore, the specialty chemicals maker said.

"With prices of both suspension and specialty paste PVC being at the lowest level over the last 8-10 quarters, it has been one of the toughest quarters in recent times for Chemplast and the PVC industry as a whole," said managing director Ramkumar Shankar.

On Thursday, chairman Vijay Sankar dedicated phase 1 of the ₹300-crore new multi-purpose block at the Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division. Phase 2, costing about ₹380 crore, is expected to be completed in 8 months.

Northeast SEZs yet to start operations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 270 operational SEZs in India have logged exports worth ₹79.62 lakh crore since 2005

None of the five approved Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India's Northeast, approved between 2007-21, have become operational yet, a Parliamentary panel flagged in a report.

The Parliament's Standing Committee on Commerce has urged the government to come up with a new industrial development scheme for the region, noting the previous scheme, unveiled in 2017, had expired in March 2022.

Stressing the Northeastern States have not benefited from SEZs like the rest of India where 270 operational SEZs have logged exports of ₹79.62 lakh crore since 2005, the panel called for expediting work on these zones.

Among the five SEZs approved in the region, two IT SEZs were to come up at Manipur (approved in 2013) and Sikkim (June 2021). Two SEZs in Nagaland approved between 2007-9 are also yet to take off similar to the agro-products zone approved in Tripura in 2019.

Chola Financial Q1 net rises 36% to ₹792 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Ltd.'s (CFHL) consolidated net profit for the June quarter increased 36% to ₹792 crore.

Total income rose 44% to ₹5,715 crore, the firm said in a filing. Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co. Ltd.'s net profit rose to ₹726 crore from ₹566 crore. Assets under management (AUM) grew 42% to ₹1,22,755 crore.

AI unveils new logo in Tata rebranding push

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air India on Thursday unveiled a new brand identity and aircraft livery inspired by its iconic *jharokha* pattern, which Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said, represented the airline's "bold vision" for the future and would include best of technology.

The new logo, called 'The Vista', is inspired by the peak of the gold window frame, which Mr. Chandrasekaran said stood for "limitless possibilities and progressiveness".

He called AI a "passion" and a big "national mission" for Tata Sons.

The airline's livery features a palette of deep red, aubergine and gold highlights that will populate the tail fin of the aircraft.

"Our aim is to have the best technology in the next 9-12 months," the Tata Sons Chairman said.

LIC Q1 net profit soars to ₹9,635 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

LIC reported first-quarter consolidated net profit soared to ₹9,635 crore, from almost ₹603 crore in the year-earlier period with much of the increase accruing from transfer of money from non-participating funds to shareholder's account.

On a standalone basis, the net profit was ₹9,543.71 crore (₹682.88 crore) while total premium income inched up to ₹98,363 crore (₹98,352 crore).

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road
Sadashivanagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560 080.

ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/11/2023

CPRI invites applications for two positions of **Project Associate & Research Associate on purely temporary basis**, initially for a period of one (1) year. Interested candidates may refer website **https://cpri.res.in** for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc. and submit their application as per the prescribed format posted in website with all relevant copies of documents by post latest by **25.08.2023**. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

Chief Administrative Officer

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
TENDER NOTICE

Adv. No. 32/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.838&84 / SE-I/TTD/2023-24 Dt:10.08.2023
Name of the work : (1) Construction of New ware House Godowns in the Marketing Godown Premises, near Alipiri, Tirupati, Amount Rs. 1500 lakhs, Time for Completion : 12 Months (2) Proposed Construction of Centralized record store in the premises of TTD Administrative Building, TTD, Tirupati, Amount Rs.900 Lakhs, Time for Completion : 12 Months
Note : For full details log on to the website : https://www.tirumala.org.

ROC No. PR4/13957/Adv. No.153/ PRO/2023, Dated: 10.08.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No.: 34/2023-24/SE(W-II)/EE-IV/DB/ Dt: 09.08.2023
Number of works : 04, Value of works : Rs. 462.72 Lakhs
Tender Opening Dt : 10.08.2023, Closing Date : 16.08.2023
Note : **Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
O/o the EE-IV Cell No.: 8187897572. For Commissioner

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016482
(Regd.Office: VidyutBhawan, Panchasheel Nagar, Ajmer-305004
Office of the SuperintendingEngineer (TW)
VidyutBhawan, Panchasheel Nagar, Ajmer-305004
Website : https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl Email : ceprojectavvnl2023@gmail.com

No. AVVNL/SE (TW) /XEN (TW-II)/AEN(TW-I)/NIT /TN-444 / D.1097 Dt. - 28-07-2023
E- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

'E Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors/bidders for:

1. **AVVNL/ACE(TW)/XEN(DF)/TN-DSM-08** forDesign, survey, supply, installation, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance for 25 years from cod of grid connected solar power plants through RESCO mode, its associated 33kv or, 11kv line to connect the plant with various 33/11 kv sub-stations and remote monitoring system (RMS) of solar power plants under PM-KUSUM-C scheme in domain of Ajmer Discom.

All the details regarding tender is available at our website www.avvnl.com and www.eproc.rajathan.gov.in. In future corrigendum/extension, if any shall be published only at website www.avvnl.com and www.eproc.rajathan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/23/7273 Superintending Engineer (TW)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB010SGC033813;
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117607)

Tender Inquiry No. 75/CHP/OP.-318/GHTP/2023-24 **Date 09/08/2023**

SE/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tenders for the work of "Providing support at the vital location/equipments for operation of coal handling plant as per scope of work on Stage-I & II CHP, GHTP, Lehra Mohabat".

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 09/08/2023 from 17:00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GHTP-58/23 **76155/12/2034/2023/26674**

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking), An ISO 9001 :2015, 14001:2015 Company
Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala
Email : materials@malabarcements.com/ bulkmcl@malabarcements.com

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Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
❖Renewal of Points and Crossing (No.102 and 103) with PSC layout at MCL Railway siding at Walayar.❖In-Situ Grinding and Skew Thrust correction of Kiln support rollers.❖Collection and Transportation of Packed Cement within 350 km from Malabar Cements Limited Walayar to various Locations in Kerala.❖Appointment of C & F agent for Ollur, Thrissur.❖Renovation work of quality control department at Walayar Plant.❖Supply of OTR tyres tubeless 1800 x 25.❖Supply of GI Corrugated sheet. Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 003096	Procurement of Polyester Felt Clothing's for Wet lap / BWC Plant	22.08.2023

TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction.
Detailed Terms & conditions, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/4433/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2337353)
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/DRG/ED/16/2023 Date :10.08.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited for the procurement of Salt Testing Kit for National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme vide e-tender no KMSCL/ DRGED/RC/STK/2023/13 dated: 10.08.2023.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Tender Qty. (Kits)	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	Salt Testing Kit	48,000	08.09.23 5.00 pm.	15.09.23 11.30 am.

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(PROJECT ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description of Work	Item No. 1
1	Name of the Work	Provision of OHE Bonding in Chennai Egmore (MS) to Tambaram (TBM), Chennai Central (MAS) to Arakonnam (AJJ), Arakonnam (AJJ) to Jolarpettai (JTJ) & Chennai Central (MAS) to Gudur (GDR) Sections Of Chennai Division
2	E-Tender Notice No.	Proj_MS_OHE Bonding_2307 Dt:09.08.2023
3	Estimated cost of the work	₹ 43,79,486/-
4	Bidding System	Single Packet Tender
5	Earnest money (EMD)	₹ 87,600/-
6	Completion period	12 Months
7	Last date and Time of online submission (closing) of tender document	31.08.2023 up to 14.00 Hrs.
8	Website address, time and Date from which tender documents will be available	On Indian Railway Website i.e, **www.ireps.gov.in** from 09.08.2023
9	Validity of offers	45 Days

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **(www.ireps.gov.in).**
DEPUTY CHIEF SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER, PROJECT, CHETPET, CHENNAI -31
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SEOUL

N. Korea's Kim dismisses military chief, calls for war preparations

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has dismissed his top general Pak Su Il, replacing him with Vice Marshal Ri Yong Gil, and called for stepping up war preparations "in an offensive way", including boosting weapons production and conducting more drills, state media reported on Thursday. AFP

BAMAKO

Mali, France suspend issuing visas in escalating row among ex-allies

ISTOCKPHOTO

France and Mali have suspended issuing visas to each other's citizens in a heightening of a row between the former allies, diplomats said on Thursday. Mali's junta froze new visas for French citizens at its embassy in Paris in an act of "reciprocity" after France suspended issuing new visas in Mali earlier this week. AFP

BANDA ACEH

Aceh orders men, women to stay apart in vehicles and public places

AFP

Authorities in Indonesia's ultra-conservative Aceh province on Thursday ordered men and women not immediately related or married to stay apart in vehicles and public places. The local government is seeking to tighten Islamic law. The consequences for breaching the order were unclear. AFP

TEL AVIV

Israeli forces kill Palestinian militant in occupied West Bank

AP

Israeli forces shot and killed Amir Ahmed Khalifa, 27, a Palestinian militant in the occupied West Bank town of Zawata, north of the city Nablus on Thursday, the latest death in an unabating wave of violence to grip the region. The death brings the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank this year to 168. AP

Wildfire destroys Hawaiian town, leaving at least 36 dead

The fires scorched thousands of acres and put homes, businesses and 35,000 lives at risk on Maui; military helicopters aiding firefighting efforts dropped about 5,70,000 litres of water in the County

Agence France-Presse
KAHULUI

At least 36 people have died after a fast-moving wildfire turned a historic Hawaiian town to ashes, officials said on Wednesday, as visitors asked to leave the island of Maui found themselves stranded at the airport.

The fires began burning early Tuesday, scorching thousands of acres and putting homes, businesses and 35,000 lives at risk on Maui, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency said in a statement.

Strong winds and dry conditions put much of the state under a fire warning on Wednesday, with more fires burning on Hawaii's Big Island, the state agency said. "As the firefighting efforts continue, 36 total fatalities have been discovered today amid the active Lahaina fire," the Maui county government said in a statement.

A wildfire burns in Kihei, Hawaii late Wednesday. Thousands of residents raced to escape as blazes swept across the island. AP

U.S. Coast Guard officers had pulled at least a dozen people from the water as emergency services were overwhelmed by a disaster that appeared to have erupted almost without warning.

Serious damage

More than 270 buildings have been damaged or destroyed in the seriously affected town of Lahaina, on the island's west coast, officials said earlier on Wednesday.

"Much of Lahaina on Maui has been destroyed and hundreds of local families have been displaced," said Governor Josh Green of the 12,000-resident historic town popular with tourists. Video posted on social media showed blazes tearing through the heart of the town and sending up huge plumes of black smoke.

Military helicopters aiding firefighting efforts dropped about 5,70,000 litres of water in Maui County on Wednesday, U.S. Army Major General Kenneth Hara, the state adjutant general, told a news conference, according to *CNN*.

Pakistan's National Assembly dissolved

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Arif Alvi formally dissolved the National Assembly three days ahead of its mandated period following which outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held formal consultations with the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday over the nomination for a caretaker premier to conduct the general elections later this year.

Mr. Sharif will continue to perform his duties as the premier until the appointment of a caretaker Prime Minister.

On Thursday, Mr. Sharif held a formal round of consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz over the nomination for the caretaker premier at the Prime Minister's House.

Presidential candidate shot dead in Ecuador after rally

Agence France-Presse
QUITO

A popular Ecuadoran presidential candidate was shot dead while leaving a rally in the nation's capital on Wednesday, prompting President Guillermo Lasso to declare a state of emergency and blame the assassination on organised crime.

Fernando Villavicencio, a 59-year-old anti-corruption crusader who had complained of receiving threats, was murdered as he was leaving a stadium in Quito after holding a campaign rally, officials said.

Mr. Lasso declared a two-month state of emergency early Thursday following the assassination, but said general elections slated for August 20 would be held as scheduled.

"Outraged and shocked by the assassination of presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio," the President said in a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter, blaming the killing on "organised crime".

Fernando Villavicencio

Villavicencio was the second most popular candidate in the presidential race, according to recent opinion polls.

"The Armed Forces as of this moment are mobilised throughout the national territory to guarantee the security of citizens, the tranquility of the country and the free and democratic elections of August 20," Mr. Lasso said in a YouTube address.

The President also declared three days of national mourning "to honour the memory of a patriot, of Fernando Villavicencio Valencia".

Mr. Lasso has said he will not seek re-election.

President of the National Electoral Council Diana Atamaint said "the date of the election scheduled for August 20 remain unalterable".

Nine other people were injured in the shooting attack, including a candidate running for the national legislature and two policemen, prosecutors said. One of the alleged attackers was shot and killed by security personnel. Prosecutors later said six others were arrested.

El Universo reported that Villavicencio was assassinated "hitman-style and with three shots to the head".

U.S. calls for curbs on investments in China

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued an executive order aimed at restricting certain American investments in sensitive high-tech areas in China – a move Beijing blasted as being "anti-globalisation".

The long-anticipated rules, expected to be implemented next year, target sectors such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence, as Washington seeks to limit access to key technologies.

The programme is set to prohibit new private equity, venture capital and joint venture investments in advanced semiconductors and some quantum information technologies in China, according to the Treasury Department.

China's Foreign Ministry blasted the move as an attempt to "engage in anti-globalisation and de-sinicisation", warning that China would "resolutely safeguard its own rights and interests".

Meet ends with road map to save Amazon

Associated Press
BELÉM

Brazil's Amazon Summit closed on Wednesday with a road map to protect tropical rainforests that was welcomed as an important step in countering climate change, but without the concrete commitments sought by some environmentalists to end deforestation.

Leaders and ministers from eight Amazon nations signed a declaration on Tuesday in Belém, Brazil, that laid out plans to drive economic development in their countries while preventing the Amazon's ongoing demise "from reaching a point of no return".

Several environmental groups described the declaration as a compilation of good intentions with little in the way of measurable goals and time frames. However, it was lauded by others, and the Amazon's umbrella organisation of Indigenous groups celebrated the inclusion of two of its main demands.

"It is significant that the leaders of the countries of the region have listened to the science and understood the call of society: the Amazon is in danger, and we do not have much time to act," the international group WWF said in a statement. "However, WWF regrets that the eight Amazonian countries, as one front, have not reached a common point to end deforestation in the region."

The members of ACTO demonstrated on Tuesday they aren't fully aligned on key issues

The eight nations attending on Tuesday – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela – are members of the newly revived Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO), who hope that a united front will give them a major voice in global environment talks ahead of the COP-28 climate conference in November.

The summit reinforces Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's strategy to leverage global concern for the Amazon's preservation.

5 U.S. citizens moved out of prison in Iran

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran has transferred five Americans from prison to house arrest, U.S. officials said on Thursday. The move comes after Tehran has spent months suggesting a prisoner swap with Washington in exchange for billions of dollars frozen in South Korea.

Iranian officials at the United Nations confirmed the deal, saying that the prisoner release "marks a significant initial step in the implementation of this agreement".

It remains unclear whether the transfer of the Iranian-Americans guarantees that they will make it home. Iran in past months has overstated progress in talks, likely conducted with mediation from Oman and Qatar, on a potential trade.

Iran, meanwhile, has said it seeks the release of Iranian prisoners held in the United States.

Sport

We have a solid chance to make the final, says Kumar Subramaniam

ACT HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

When Arul Anthoni Selvaraj took over as Malaysia's head coach three years ago, he realised the importance of grooming and developing goalkeepers. And the first name that came to his mind was none other than Kumar Subramaniam, a veteran of 321 Internationals.

The two have closely worked together since and have ensured that there is harmony in the team and better communication between junior and senior players. In a career spanning two decades including two silver medals in Asian Games ('2010 &'18) and a silver in the 2017 Asia Cup, Kumar has been the bulwark of the team and he is now diligently guiding the younger goalkeepers.

Helping hand: Kumar guides younger Malaysian goalkeepers. M. VEDHAN

"During my time, there was a huge gap between me and other goalkeepers. Now it is not so. There is a healthy competition between the three goalkeepers. There will be a training camp when we go back to Malaysia to select the best two," said Kumar to *The Hindu* here on Thursday, on the sidelines of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament.

Hafizuddin Othman, Zaimi Mat Deris and Adrian Andy Albert are the three fighting for two spots for the Asian Games. While Othman is the first-choice goalkeeper, Zaimi is his deputy here. Adrian has not come after playing in the friendlies against Korea in June.

The former Malaysian 'keeper felt that this could be the best chance for his team to reach the final here for the first time in seven editions of Asian Champions Trophy.

"Since 2011 (barring 2021 as the team didn't participate), we have finished third in all editions. This time we have a solid opportunity. But Korea is not an easy team to beat as they are speedy, physically strong and good in short corners," said Kumar.

Auspicious Queen primed to score in feature event

BENGALURU: Auspicious Queen, who has been well tuned is expected to score in the SKJ Infospaces Bangalore Summer Million (1,600m), the feature event of the races postponed from Saturday (July 29) to be held here on Friday (Aug 11). False rails will be declared on the race day.

1 LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 1-00 p.m.: 1. Konichiwa (1) S. John 62, 2. Air Blast (12) Inayat 61.5, 3. Dawn Rising (3) Rayan 61, 4. Akasi (9) Chethan K 60, 5. Anne Boleyn (11) Likith Appu 59, 6. Sling Shot (2) G. Vivek 59, 7. Southern Chrome (7) S. Saqlain 59, 8. Apollo Light (4) B. Dharshan 57.5, 9. Marco Polo (6) Syed Imran 56.5, 10. Chandra Kanta (5) Arvind K 55, 11. Paradise Reckons (10) S. Shareef 55 and 12. Jai Vikram (8) Hindu S 52.

1. SLING SHOT, 2. KONICHIWA, 3. JAI VIKRAM

2 BRAVE DANCER PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30: 1. Eastern Sea (3) Inayat 62.5, 2. Aferpi (7) Kiran Rai 62, 3. Fearless Joey (4) M. Prabahakaran 62, 4. The Pirate (10) Akshay K 61, 5. Raffles (1) J.H. Arul 60.5, 6. Rorita (2) G. Vivek 60.5, 7. Mars (9) Likith Appu 60, 8. Southernaristocrat (6) B.L. Paswan 59, 9. Elite Agent (5) Angad 57.5 and 10. Sand Castles (8) Hindu S 57.

1.THE PIRATE, 2. SAND CASTLES, 3. AFERPI

3 BETWAY CHITRADURGA STAKES (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 2-00: 1. Aldiva (7) S. John 61.5, 2. Irish Coffee (3) Inayat 60.5, 3. Sea Eagle (2) Zervan 60.5, 4. Ruling Dynasty (11) Akshay K 60, 5. Magnus (12) Antony 59, 6. Starkova (4) Hindu S 59, 7. Julio (5) Shreyas S 58.5, 8. Saigon (9) S. Saqlain 58.5, 9. Wolf Creek (6) C. Umesh 57.5, 10. Sassy (1) Trevor 57, 11. Crown Witness (10) Yash 55 and 12. Pneuma (8) G. Vivek 54.5.

1. SASSY, 2. MAGNUS, 3. SEA EAGLE

4 HONEY DAY PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Bruce Almighty (11) Akshay K 62, 2. Stellar Gold (4) S. Saqlain 61.5, 3. Memorable Time (10) Inayat 61, 4. Peluche (6) Abdul Fazal 60.5, 5. Emma (1) C. Umesh 59, 6. Rhapsody In Green (5) Zervan 57.5, 7. Armory (7) Kiran Rai 57, 8. White Roses (9) Yash 57, 9. Silkwood (8) Salman Khan 55, 10. Ring Master (12) J.H. Arul 53, 11. Ultimate Ruler (3) Hindu S 53 and 12. First Royalist (2) Arvind K 50.5.

1. STELLAR GOLD, 2. BRUCE ALMIGHTY, 3. WHITE ROSES

5 RED DIVINE PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Cadmus (6) Vinod Shinde 56, 2. Clyde Star (3) A. Ramu 56, 3. Contractor (10) R. Pradeep 56, 4. Diamond Gold (2) Ayaz Khan 56, 5. Gimmler (5) Hindu S 56, 6. Nevada Gold (11) G. Vivek 56, 7. Rembrandt (12) Shreyas S 56, 8. Star Concept (9) Yash 56, 9. Crosswater (4) Antony 54.5, 10. Nyaya (1) Trevor 54.5, 11. Samachar (8) Likith Appu 54.5 and 12. Seeking The Stars (7) S. Saqlain 54.5.

1. NYAYA, 2. STAR CONCEPT, 3. CROSSWATER

6 LT. COL. GAUNT MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Eternal Princess (3) Vinod Shinde 62.5, 2. Kensington Court (6) Abdul Fazal 60, 3. Fondness Of You (4) Yash 57, 4. Clifford (5) Zervan 56.5, 5. Crown Consort (7) P. Tejeshwar 56, 6. Leather Back (1) G. Vivek 53, 7. Seminole Wind (2) Hindu S 53 and 8. Foi (8) S. Saqlain 52.5.

1. KENSINGTON COURT, 2. FONDNESS OF YOU, 3. CLIFFORD

7 BANGALORE CITY SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, 4-00: 1 Agnostic (1) Trevor 60, 2. All Attractive (2) S. John 60, 3. Imperial Blue (3) C. Umesh 60, 4. Siege Courageous (5) G. Vivek 60 and 5. Star Glory (4) Akshay K 60.

1. AGNOSTIC, 2. ALL ATTRACTIVE

8 SKJ INFOSPACES BANGALORE SUMMER MILLION (1,600m), 3-y-o, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Touch Of Grey (3) Yash 58, 2. Auspicious Queen (2) Angad 54.5, 3. Prana (4) Akshay K 52, 4. Amazing Attraction (5) Shreyas S 50.5 and 5. Victoria Doresaani (1) S. Saqlain 50.5.

1. AUSPICIOUS QUEEN, 2. TOUCH OF GREY

9 FANTABULOUS KING PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Inyouwebelieve (6) S. John 62.5, 2. Victoria Punch (2) Antony 60.5, 3. Ruling Goddess (4) Shreyas S 59.5, 4. King Of War (7) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 5. Spectacular (9) Abdul Fazal 57.5, 6. All Attraction (8) G. Vivek 57, 7. Twilight Tornado (1) Inayat 56.5, 8. Wild Emperor (3) Akshay K 56.5, 9. Roudy (11) J.H. Arul 56, 10. Stormy Ocean (12) Trevor 55, 11. Able One (5) Jagadeesh 53 and 12. Aquamatic (10) Hindu S 53.

1. ALL ATTRACTION, 2. INYOUWEBELIEVE, 3. STORMY OCEAN

10 XISCA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Acaster (3) Srinath 62.5, 2. Southern Power (11) Akshay K 61, 3. Striking Memory (2) G. Vivek 60.5, 4. Chisox (4) Inayat 60, 5. Mystical Merkabah (5) Rajesh K 57.5, 6. Benignity (9) B. Dharshan 56, 7. Domina (12) Antony 55, 8. Spirit Dancer (6) S. Saqlain 55, 9. Antilope (1) Hindu S 54, 10. Je Ne Sais Quoi (10) Md. Aliyar 51.5, 11. Cinco De Mayo (7) S. Shareef 51 and 12. Sekhmet (8) Arvind K 51.

1. ACASTER, 2. STRIKING MEMORY, 3. ANTILOPE

Day's best: **AUSPICIOUS QUEEN**
Double: **SASSY – NYAYA**
Jkt: 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7, (iii): 8, 9 and 10.

CONFIDENT

Indian women can win gold in Asian Games, says Rajeshwari

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad is confident that the Indian women's cricket team can go the distance at the Hangzhou Asian Games. "We have played against all major opponents in the past, but not to dwell on that much, we have the trust in our team that we are capable of clinching the gold medal," she said.

SERVING UP DREAMS

Chris Evert to be honoured by US Tennis Association Foundation

Chris Evert will receive the Serving Up Dreams Award on the first day of the U.S. Open for her efforts to help the U.S. Tennis Association's charitable arm. The USTA Foundation announced on Wednesday that Evert will be honoured at its gala on August 28 in New York.

UP AND RUNNING

Alcaraz off the mark in Toronto, Monfils stuns Tsitsipas

Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz won his 13th ATP match in a row as the World No. 1 began the Toronto Masters by defeating Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6(3) on Wednesday. Second-seed Daniil Medvedev topped Matteo Arnaldi 6-2, 7-5 but Gael Monfils upset fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4. 6-3.

A FIRST AT SLAMS

US Open to introduce video review for double bounce

Video review will make its Grand Slam tennis debut at the US Open this year and the players will get three challenges per set to check for double bounce, a ball touching a player's body, a player touching the net or a player being hindered by noise. They'll retain a challenge if they're right and get an additional one in tiebreakers.

Japanese test awaits favourite India in the semifinals

The host will be looking to go all the way as it builds up to the big-ticket Asian Games; the other last-four clash pits Malaysia against Korea; Pakistan and China will face off in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon

ACT HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
CHENNAI

Bracing up: With team cohesion getting better with each outing, India will be a confident lot. M. VEDHAN

The previous clash between India and Japan ended in a draw that was dominated by the host but frustratingly defended by the reigning Asian Games champion to blunt the battery of Indian attacks. On Friday, India will be looking to find a way to break it down as it seeks a spot in the final.

Having finished unbeaten on top of the league table, India will be looking to go all the way as it builds up to the big-ticket Asian Games in just over a month. This tournament will be the last competitive outing and a final chance for Craig Fulton to fine-tune his plans and see his players in action before the home stretch of training and finalising his squad.

It won't be easy, though. Japan finished fourth in the table, its lone win in the last league match enough to put it above Pakistan, but the team has constantly pushed its opponents even in games it has lost. It was also the only team to deny India's battery of drag-flickers with Raiki Fujishima, Shota Yamada and Ken Nagayoshi repeatedly making rapid runs during PC defence.

India will still be the favourite, though, with the team cohesion getting better with each outing. The strikers are still missing chances but India's plans have worked – the balance between field-goal attempts and PCs is more even and Selvam Karthi, Akashdeep Singh and Mandeep Singh are getting more shots on target.

The defence has tightened up too, Amit Rohidas and Varun Kumar doing the duty even as Manpreet Singh and Harmanpreet Singh have kept moving as defensive freemen. A day's rest will also help the team. Going by the performance India put up against Pakistan and with P.R. Sreejesh lining up for his 300th international cap, a repeat should be enough to sail through. As India coach Craig Fulton said after the Pakistan game, "the tournament starts now".

Also hoping to advance will be Malaysia against Korea in the other semifinal in a repeat of their last pool-stage clash that went Malaysia's way by a solitary goal despite them dominating for large parts and consistently pushing Korea back. Korea also had goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim to thank for thwarting the Malaysians, who would be wary of dropping their guard against a patient Korean side that prefers to lie low and capitalise on the opposition's errors, and veteran Jong-hyun Jang's drag-flicks that haven't fired so far but can never be ruled out.

Pakistan will take on China in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon. The former's display has been heartening and it managed its only win in the tournament against the minnows.

Today's matches: Pakistan vs China (3.30 p.m.), Malaysia vs Korea (6 p.m.), India vs Japan (8.30 p.m.).

We stuck to our structure and game plan, says Fulton

Uthra Ganesan
CHENNAI

Good beginning: The Indian men have managed to tick many boxes so far. M. VEDHAN

For all the talk around missed chances and less-than-ideal preparations in the run-up to the Asian Games, the Indian men have managed to tick off the right boxes so far at the Asian Champions Trophy, finishing on top of the pool table.

After the final league match against Pakistan, the reactions from both sides were contrasting, much like the on-field 4-0 result. While Pakistan coach Mohammad Saqlain questioned umpiring decisions that he claimed denied his team a goal and deflated the morale of his young team, his Indian counterpart Craig Fulton preferred to respond with a straight bat.

"That's what we have video referrals for – it (the first Pakistan goal that was disallowed) came off the body but some goals umpires cannot disallow. They played well, we defended well and we got the goals that counted at the right time. We had a game plan and we were structured. The objective was to score early and we did it and then it was really difficult for them – the more they pushed up, the more we dictated the game... it was a fair result."

> The objective was to score early and we did it and then it was really difficult for them

Asked about Saqlain claiming that India did not have a structure and played only on penalty corners and fitness, captain Harmanpreet Singh was poker-faced. "If we are winning without having any structure, then it's a good lesson from them, we will keep it in mind and improve our structure even more and perform better," he quipped.

About his own role, he was more modest. "It's my responsibility (to convert PCs) and you have the right to ask questions. It's not just about me, everyone's efforts are involved – the forwards create chances, then there is the pusher and the stopper and then the flicker comes into the picture – and our team effort was good. You want to keep doing your best, whether it comes off or not. During matches also mistakes happen but you need to forget them and move forward," he declared.

Rani and Sardar named coaches of girls' and boys' sub-junior teams

Abhishek Saini
CHENNAI

New assignment: Rani Rampal and Sardar Singh with HI president Dilip Tirkey and secretary Bhola Nath Singh. PTI

Rani Rampal and Sardar Singh were unveiled on Thursday as the coaches of the girls' and boys' sub-junior hockey teams, the newest age-group category introduced by Hockey India. After getting dropped from the Indian women's team, former captain Rani expressed her disappointment but said she had more left to give to the sport.

Rani was not included in a preparatory camp in Bengaluru in April-May and subsequently missed the side's tour of Australia. She insisted that it was not the end of the road for her.

"I came back from an injury, was the top scorer at National Games but wasn't picked. The best person who can answer this is the chief coach or the selectors because I don't know the answer," said Rani at a press conference. "I am not retiring since I know I still have more to give as a player. I have this thing in me to not give up. If I had to, I'd have given up after the Olympics," added Rani.

> I am not retiring since I know I still have more to give as a player. I have this thing in me to not give up. If I had to, I'd have given up after the Olympics
> – RANI

With just a few weeks left before the Asian Games, there is still uncertainty if the 28-year-old will find a place on Janneke Schopman's side.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, also present during the announcement, said he wasn't involved in selection.

"We can understand Rani isn't in the team and we have asked the coach and selectors why such a player hasn't been included.

"When a team is selected, the president and secretary don't interfere. It's the responsibility of the selectors and coach," said Tirkey. "I have spoken to Rani who was very upset. After talking to her, we offered her a coach post."

Despite the new role requiring Rani to oversee a camp in Rourkela, she is confident she can juggle between the roles of player and coach. "I accepted this since it is a short-term programme that could be converted into a long-term project. Initially, it's a 45-day camp," said Rampal.

Skipper Rohit admits No. 4 slot is an issue for India

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Fingers crossed: Rohit says the Indian team will wait and watch on both Rahul and Shreyas who are on a comeback trail. FILE PHOTO

No batter has succeeded in settling into the vital number four slot in the Indian ODI team since the retirement of Yuvraj Singh, captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday, raising serious concerns before the World Cup.

With the 50-over World Cup less than two months away, India is struggling to find a batter for the No. 4 slot, something that has also troubled it in the previous edition in 2019 in England.

"Look, No. 4 has been an issue for us for a long time. After Yuvi (Yuvraj Singh), nobody has come and settled themselves in. But, for a long time, Shreyas (Iyer) has actually batted at No. 4 and he has done well – his numbers are really good," Rohit told reporters on the sidelines of a *LaLiga* event here.

"Unfortunately, injuries have given him a bit of trouble; he has been out for a while and that is honestly what has happened in the last 4-5 years. A lot of these guys have got injured and you will always see a new guy coming and playing there," he said.

The India captain said the percentage of injuries to players in key positions has hampered the team.

"The percentage of injuries that have happened in the last 4-5 years, it is massive. When the players get injured or are not available, you try doing different things with different players – that is what I have to say about No. 4." With both KL Rahul - India's preferred option for No. 5 as wicketkeeper-batter - and Iyer on comeback trail, Rohit said they will wait and watch how these two players go.

"Shreyas and KL are coming off not playing anything for four months, big injuries, surgeries rather. Both had surgeries.

"I know, I had to undergo surgery once and how it feels afterwards, it is quite tough. We have to see, how they respond, what they do. The selection (meeting) will be there in a few days, we will have a good debate about what we can do. But honestly nobody is an automatic choice - they all have to fight for the spot - everyone has to, whether it is a top or a bottom spot.

Arjun, Vidit advance; Humpy bounces back

CHESS WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Arjun.

Arjun Erigaisi joined Vidit Gujrathi in the pre-quarterfinals after K. Humpy bounced back with a resolute victory to stay alive in the race of women's quarterfinals in the FIDE World Cup in Baku on Thursday.

An error from Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov on the 36th move was enough for Arjun to tighten his grip and eventually settle the contest in 60 moves. Vidit raised visions of a second straight win when Frenchman Etienne Bacrot blundered on the 34th move. However, Vidit missed his chance and eventually got the draw in 41 moves.

On a day that witnessed some engaging battles, top seeded Norwegian Magnus Carlsen won against Germany's Vincent Keymer to make it 1-1 but USA's Wesley So (0.5) exited after drawing against Serbia's Alexey Sarana (1.5).

Like Carlsen, facing a must-win scenario after losing on Wednesday, Humpy avenged the loss to Bella Khotenashvili by checkmating the Georgian in 42nd minute.

For the second game in succession, teenagers R. Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin proved equal to second seed Hikaru Nakamura and fourth seed Ian Nepomniachtchi to take their matches into tie-breaker.

D. Gukesh could not make the most chances he created against Andrey Esipenko and settled for a second draw. Similarly, D. Harika drew again with Dutch girl Eline Roebers to set up the tie-break games.

The results:

Open (Round 4, Game 2, prefix denotes seeding): 40-Andrey Esipenko (FIDE, 2683, 1) drew with 8-D. Gukesh (2744, 1); 52-Etienne Bacrot (Fra, 2662, 0.5) drew with 20-Vidit Gujrathi (2719, 1.5); 36-Nihal Sarin (2688, 1) drew with 4-Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 2779, 1); 23-Arjun Erigaisi (2710, 1.5) bt 55-Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 2659, 0.5); 31-R. Praggnanandhaa (2690, 1) drew with 2-Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2787, 1).

Women (Pre-quarters, Game 2): 14-Bella Khotenashvili (Geo, 2475, 1) lost to 3-K. Humpy (2553, 1); 10-D. Harika (2500, 1) drew with 26-Eline Roebers (Ned, 2419, 1).

INBRIEF

Iniyan triumphs in Creon International Open chess

India's Grandmaster P. Iniyan scored 7.5 points out of 9 rounds to win the 27th Creon International Open chess tournament in Creon, Bordeux (France) recently. Iniyan and GM Bharath Subramaniyam were tied for the first place, but the former won due to a better tiebreak. With six wins, three draws and remaining undefeated, Iniyan also increased 10 rating points here.

Real Madrid's Courtois suffers torn ACL in left knee

Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee on the eve of the new season in *LaLiga*, and will undergo surgery in the coming days, his club announced on Thursday.

Barcelona's Kessie joins Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli

Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie on Wednesday joined Saudi Arabian outfit Al Ahli in a €12.5 million move from Barcelona, the teams announced.

Amogh and Likith star in Mysore's six-wkt. win

H. Amogh (4/30) and Likith S. Gowda (70 n.o.) helped Mysore register a six-wicket win over Raichur in the KSCA U-19 inter-mofussil tournament.

The scores: Raichur 174 in 46.4 overs (Harshawardhan Khuba 40, Laxmikant A. Suryavanshi 39, Shridhar Jagatap 35, Vivek Naik 32 n.o., H. Amogh 4/30, Nikash Narendra Palaram 3/33) lost to Mysore 175/4 in 34.1 overs (S.U. Karthik 44, Likith S. Gowda 70 n.o., Roshan Raju 25).
Mangalore 252/9 in 50 overs (R.R. Rohan 26, Nihansh Poojary 40, Ashish Nayak 62, Mohammad Ibrahim Rayyan 4/50) bt Shivamogga 180 in 48.5 overs (Faizan 47, C.R. Kumarswamy 48, M. Tanmay 37, R. Pratham 4/27).
Tumkur 145 in 48 overs (V. Sohan 46, Deepak Neeralagi 3/38) lost to Dharwad 146/3 in 27.2 overs (Mathew Nilugul 57 n.o., Madhava Dharwadkar 34, Shatak Gunjal 28).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Women's World Cup, FanCode, 6.30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3 & 6 p.m.
Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy, FanCode, 3.30, 6 & India vs Japan, 8.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Chennaiyin starts season in style with win over Hyderabad

CFC's high value acquisitions — Murray and Shields — get on the scoresheet; encounter between Roundglass Punjab and Bangladesh Army ends in a goalless stalemate

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Chennaiyin FC started its season on a confident note downing its Indian Super League rival Hyderabad FC 3-1 in group E league fixture of the 132nd Durand Cup football at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati on Thursday.

Chennaiyin's two high value acquisitions – Jordan Murray and Connor Shields – proved their worth as they found the target once each while the third strike for Chennaiyin came as an own goal by the Hyderabad defender Alex Saji. Chingelsana Singh was the only scorer for Hyderabad FC, which fielded a side without any foreign recruit.

Making a return to his first ISL club, Chennaiyn FC manager Owen Coyle saw that the team got back its winning form right at the start of the season.

Hyderabad FC enjoyed the initial exchanges and earned a penalty which was converted by its captain Chinglensana. Before Hyderabad could build on the early lead,

Chennaiyin found the equaliser in the sixth minute as the opposition defender Saji deflected forward Farukh Choudhary's cross into his own goal.

Chennaiyin went into the lead in the 15th minute when Murray took advantage of a faulty clearance from the Hyderabad goalkeeper to set up Shields, who made it 2-1.

Murray sealed the match in Chennaiyin's favour just after the break as he scored from an assist from Ayush Adhikari.

The group A match between I-League champion Roundglass Punjab FC and the visiting Bangladesh Army ended in a goalless draw at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The results: Group E (Guwahati): Hyderabad FC 1 (Chinglensana 4-pen) lost to Chennaiyin FC 3 (Alex Saji 6-og, Connor Shields 15, Jordan Murray 46).
Group A: Roundglass Punjab FC 0 drew with Bangladesh Army FT 0.

Facile win: Chennaiyin had it easy in its opener.
TWITTER/CHENNAIYINFC

daCunha/AB/889

Nagal crashes out in the last-16 round

Sports Bureau

Benjamin Hassan beat third seed Sumit Nagal 6-2, 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Meerbusch, Germany, on Thursday.

In the doubles quarterfinals, Nam JiSung and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan were pipped 12-10 in the super tie-break by Orlando Luz and Sem Verbeek.

In the $100,000 ITF women's event, Sahaja Yamalapalli lost to Olivia Gadecki of Australia, in the singles first round, but won the doubles pre-quarterfinals in partnership with Kateryna Volodko of Ukraine.

Netherlands turns to its Spanish spies for key clash

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Netherlands coach Andries Jonker says he "knows everything" about Spain ahead of their Women's World Cup quarterfinal on Friday, thanks in part to former Spanish international Damaris Egurrola.

Egurrola made one appearance for Spain in a friendly and was a regular in its youth teams, but the midfielder now plays for the Netherlands and is contention to start in Wellington.

Jonker and his coaching staff have also been briefed about what to expect from defender Merel van Dongen, who plays for Atletico Madrid, while Stefanie van der Gragt and Lieke Martens both had spells with Barcelona.

"We know everything about Spain. We have a small book about them," Jonker said on Thursday.

The Netherlands reached the final four years ago, losing 2-0 to the United States, but a fluid Spain team full of individual quality is slight favoured in Wellington.

Jonker said his team is coping with a tough travel itinerary having recently flown back and forth between co-hosts New Zealand and Australia.

Japan has been the revelation of this edition but it must brace itself for the ultimate clash of styles when it faces Sweden at Eden Park, Auckland.

The only side left in the tournament which has won the World Cup before, 2011 champion Japan has surged into the last eight with 14 goals scored in four games and one conceded.

One of the few teams to have lined up with three centre-backs, it has been devastating on the counter-attack, surgical with its passing in behind the opposition defence and clinical in the final third.

In Hinata Miyazawa it has the leader in the race for the golden boot with five goals.

Sweden, meanwhile, has built its success on a solid defence that has also let in just one goal, in its opening game against South Africa.

Physically it is a handful for opponents and it is particularly dangerous at set-pieces.

Zecira Musovic meanwhile produced arguably the best performance of any goalkeeper at the competition as Sweden eliminated holder the United States on penalties in the last 16.

The most striking difference between the teams is in that physicality.

Inside track: The Dutch will use the intel provided by players who turn out for Spanish clubs during their quarterfinal clash. AP

KSCA explains the rationale behind holding matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) defended the decision to host all Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Asked why districts outside Bengaluru were denied the chance to host matches, B.K. Sampath Kumar, KSCA vice president and chairman, Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20, said, "Rain is expected during the tournament, so the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium (equipped with the SubAir drainage system) is the best option.

Heavy rain

"Even during the IPL, we were able to get full 20-over matches here despite heavy rain."

"Apart from this, there were logistic reasons to host all matches in Bengaluru. The host broadcaster (Star Sports Network) also wanted matches to be held here," Sampath said.

Sampath spoke at the trophy unveiling ceremony of the tournament held at the KSCA here on Thursday.

He was joined on stage by former India cricketer and KSCA president Raghuram Bhat, former India batter and chief guest Gundappa Viswanath, and KSCA hon. joint secretary Shahvir Tarapore.

ACU presence

A few years ago, the tournament – then known as the Karnataka Premier League – was plagued by betting allegations.

Sampath stated that the BCCI's Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) will oversee proceedings to ensure a clean tournament.

"Six members of the ACU will be here during the tournament. We want to ensure that no disrepute is brought to the tournament, players or the KSCA," Sampath said.

Viswanath also called on players to adhere to the ACU's rules of good conduct.

Eden fire won't affect deadlines: CAB president

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

A fire, which broke out at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday night, has not caused any major damages to the stadium which is being renovated for the upcoming ODI World Cup.

"A fire broke out last night at 11.50 pm. People who were working here saw smoke and then the fire. Immediately, two fire tenders were pressed into action and flames were doused in no time. There was no damage to the dressing room as such. Only some cables were burnt," Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Snehasish Ganguly told reporters on Thursday.

The cause of the fire was the heating of the sauna heater from which sparks spread to the stacks of towels kept close by, he informed.

Ganguly said the damaged cables would be changed in a couple of days and the incident would not affect the deadlines for finishing the renovation works. "Certainly there is no sabotage angle," he added.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Champion: The victorious Kickstart FC U-19 team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FC Agniputhra to take on Students Union FC in final

FC Agniputhra blanked Kickstart FC 4-0 to enter the final of the Infiniti C Puttaiah Memorial football tournament here on Thursday. In Saturday's final, Agniputhra will take on Students Union FC, which overcame FC Deccan 4-3 on penalties [1-1 after regulation time].

The results (semifinals): Students Union FC 1 (Shorayav Bharadwaj 11) bt FC Deccan 1 (M. Arivoli 13) [4-3 on penalties]; FC Agniputhra 4 (Lalnunzama 11, 78, Prashanth Chetri 61, Omega Vanlalhruaitluanga 90+3) bt Kickstart FC 0.

Kickstart FC teams reign supreme

Kickstart FC swept all three titles, winning the U-19, U-15 and U-13 titles at the TAL Youth League Championship that concluded here recently.

The results (finals): U-19: Kickstart FC 3 (Mohamed Suhail 6, 35, Borish Singh 7) bt TSS FC 0.
U-15: Kickstart FC 1 (Sachith Harish 35) bt Belgaum United FA 0.
U-13: Kickstart FC 10 (K. Santosh Sharma 11, Daniel Joseph Royal 24, 36, 38, Gwsarv Kachari 30, 54, Jacob Thomas 30, T. Kevish 46, Arth Chandramoorthy 51, Shriyan Shetty 56) bt Bhaichung Bhutia Football Schools 0.

Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag pair get first-round bye

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received first-round byes in the BWF World Championships 2023 draw held here on Thursday.

This year's BWF World Championships will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from August 21 to 27.

Sindhu, who won the women's singles world title in 2019, however, has been handed a tough draw and she might face Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon and top seed An Se Young of Korea as they are grouped in the top half of the draw.

Niki and Adam script an epic triumph by saving nine match points in a row

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It will go down in the records as one of the most improbable victories. The ATP Challenger Tour has, in fact, put up a reel on Instagram, with the headline, "Greatest come back of all time?!"

The video captures all the 11 points for Niki and his partner Adam Taylor of Australia when they saved nine match points on the trot from 0-9 in the super tie-break against Roman Burruchaga and Heman Casanova of Argentina, for a 2-6, 7-6(6), [11-9] victory. It was in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Cordenons, Italy, on Wednesday.

When contacted, two-time National champion Niki was prompt with his response. "Saving nine match points is tough. But, saving nine match points in a row is impossible. Well, it is possible now!," said Niki, quite happy to be part of the record. There were many uncharitable remarks on Instagram, calling it as a fixed match.

"Our opponents played well and wanted to win. That is how they got till 9-0. Guess, they lowered their guard and after a few points, pressure kicked in and we played good. My partner especially played really sharp at the net in those moments. Definitely, we were lucky," summed up Niki.

When Niki and Adam had their first match point at 11-10 in the super tie-break, a volley from the opponents hit the tape of the net. It was hard to execute such a fine shot, if the intention was to fix it!

"It was a very lucky day. It proved that anything can happen in tennis. And that it is important not to slow down. Or think that it is done, till it is actually done. We have to make sure that it doesn't happen again, and stay focused from the start," said Niki.

Niki felt confident that he was improving to be a regular on the Challenger Tour, playing more singles matches in the main draw.

"I can do well in singles. In fact, I am improving in both singles and doubles. I want to play consistently both in singles and doubles at the Challenger level," Niki signed off. Irrespective of whatever he does henceforth, Niki is already part of a historic feat in tennis.

Memorable day: Adam and Niki on way to a historic triumph.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT